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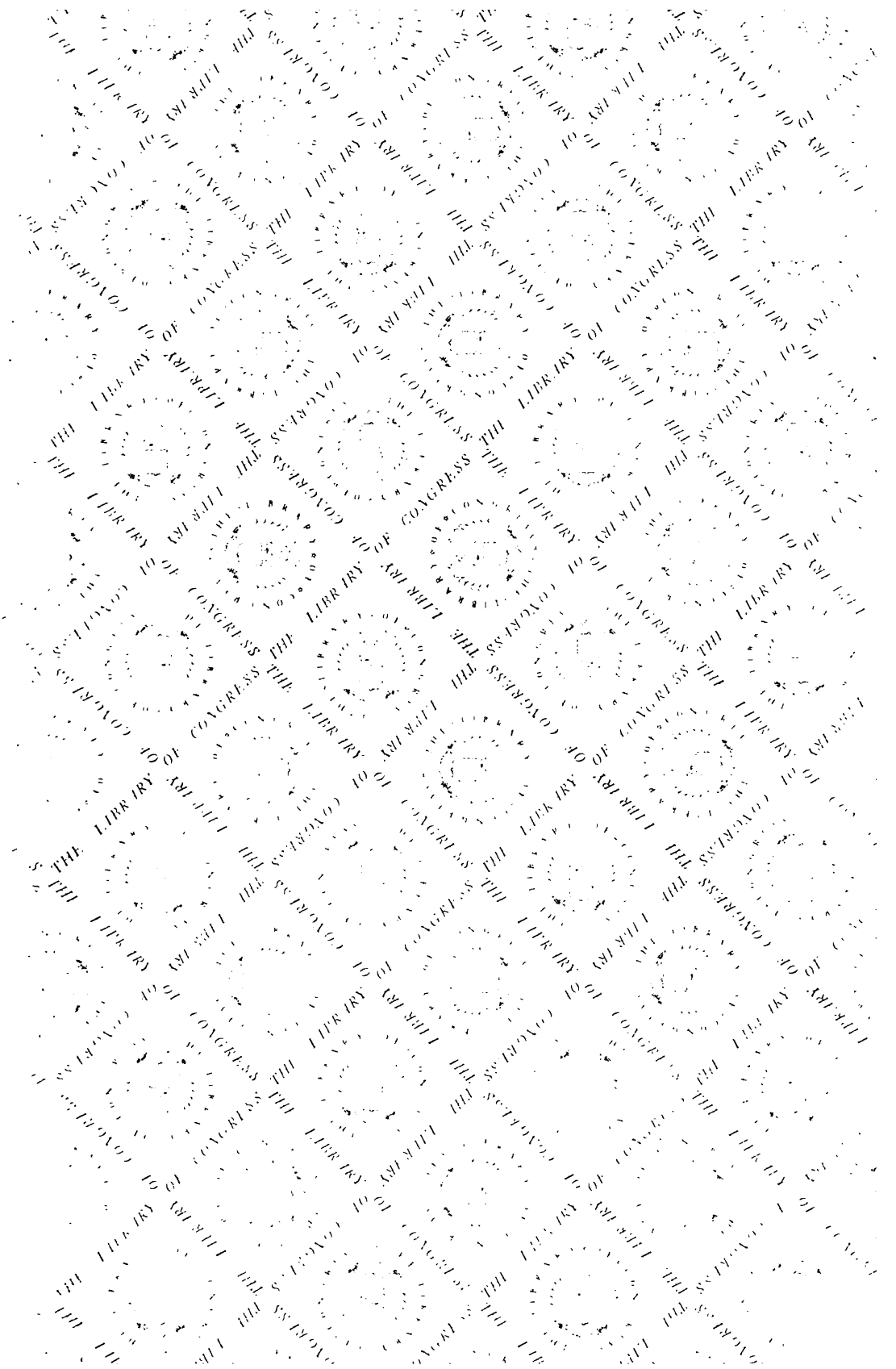
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THE

# AMERICAN FARMER:

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE,

DOMESTIC AND RURAL ECONOMY.

ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS OF

FARM BUILDINGS, IMPLEMENTS, DOMESTIC ANIMALS,

FRUITS, FLOWERS, SHRUBS, &c.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

VOLUME II.

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# THE AMERICAN FARMER

ENTERED according to Act of Congress, in the year 1866, by JOHN TURNER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Northern District of New York.

VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY, 1867.

No. 1.



Stern winter reigns. A new-born heir is throned  
Upon the dais of the early year.  
The gray beard monarch claims the youthful king,  
And wraps him deep in softened yielding robes  
Of purest snow from ether's cloudy vaults.  
The month wears slowly on with shortened days,  
And dreary nights, save when the orb'd moon  
In full, pours down her borrowed lucent light  
Upon a sea of glistening pearls, congealed  
By winter's breath from drops of purest rain.  
By day or night a wide-spread silence reigns,  
While wearied nature gains her needed rest.  
Belfast, Me.

G. E. B.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

IN turning over a new leaf in the book of time, we can, by reviewing the past, have what is invaluable, the experience of those who have devoted time, labor, and experiment, to different crops and modes of culture, and by hearing and reading, gain much knowledge which will help us in improving the present high standard to which Agriculture in the present day has attained.

In jotting down our "work for the month," we cannot give every item, which should include ALL work on the farm, but note those general hints which are "principal," and which will help to suggest others as suitable to the varied extent of our country. What would be applicable in a Northern State, would be too late for one in a Southern latitude; but by giving a few general "heads," we can derive the minor items which will suggest themselves as work suitable for the month.

During January we experience the rigors of our bleak winter with its frosts and snows, its stormy blasts and piercing winds, and while comfortably seated around our warm firesides, what is more appropriate than to lay

PLANS—for the year, upon which we have entered. Now, is the time to make a map of the farm, and specify what crop we shall devote to each field. Let

a regular system of rotation be adopted; not the exhausting one of crop upon crop, of the same cereal, from the same land; but by a judicious rotation, produce from the soil that which will repay the best, and keep the land in the highest state of fertility. Let us also

CALCULATE—what crops have paid the best during the past year. Where accounts have been regularly kept, this will be easy, and by a careful revision we can learn what to raise, and what crops are most suitable to the land we are cultivating. This is the time for those who have not yet done so, to commence keeping a

FARM ACCOUNT.—Suitable blank books should be obtained, in which to keep a record of what occurs: a correct account with employees, with each field, each crop raised—so that at the end of the year we may learn what crops pay the best, and know exactly what is profitable or otherwise, to raise. Visit

YOUR NEIGHBORS.—Learn from them their success with different crops during the past year. Examine their stock, see if you cannot improve your own breed of sheep, pigs, or poultry, by a careful examination of the stock of others. Take time also for

STUDY—as well as observation. Let us improve the winter's leisure by reading the best works on agriculture and horticulture, and conduct our operations on the farm, during 1867, with renewed determination to farm better, more intellectually, and we shall reap the reward in larger crops.

SURFACE DRAINS.—When a thaw occurs for a few days, take the opportunity to cut a surface drain from any low land where water is apt to lie, so as to get the land in good condition for working early in the spring.

POULTRY HOUSES—should be kept clean, and ashes and lime sprinkled over the floors every week. Let the manure be put away in a dry place, and preserved for use on the crops.

FENCING.—Now will be a good time to lay in a stock of posts and rails to repair fences in spring

**STOCK**—Of all kinds should be kept perfectly clean. Let no accumulation of dirt or manure be retained in the stables or cow houses; but rather have them kept scrupulously clean. Food and water should be regularly supplied. Keep them warm and comfortable, but at the same time let there be free ventilation, but *no draft*.

**SHEEP**—Should be well protected, and supplied regularly with a little corn and roots, so as to keep them in good condition.

**CELLARS**—Under the house and barns, should be frequently examined and cleansed. Let no decaying substance be allowed to accumulate; but have it at once removed to the manure heap.

**TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS**—of all kinds should be looked after, and those requiring repairs attended to. If new ones are wanted, carefully read over the advertisements in *THE FARMER*, and other agricultural papers, and ascertain where the cheapest, but at the same time, the *very best*, are to be obtained, and purchase them in time before the busy work of spring commences.

**FARMERS' CLUBS**—should be started in every village, town, and county, (if not already organized,) where a free discussion can be had on all agricultural and horticultural subjects. They should be free and open to all, and information obtained from practical farmers that will be of great value, and productive of good in establishing a friendly feeling among near neighbors.

## COUNTRY HOUSES—NO. 2.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "W. H. W."

It is not my purpose to write any learned dissertation on this subject, but to throw out a few hints in general in regard to structure, location, out-buildings, surroundings, etc:

Having in a former article, (page 275,) expressed some views in relation to building in a more substantial manner than at present is the custom, I would add a few words thereto. In the building of a suitable house we should have reference to climate, and that it is to be occupied by succeeding generations—for it should be recollected that we ought to build in a manner that will last several generations—but how few houses comparatively, are built in the country which will last comfortably beyond the second generation, and many that hardly survive the first. One great error of our architects has been, and still is, to devise plans for cheap houses built in a light and comparatively unsubstantial manner, instead of inducing the abandonment of cheap, light, wood structures for those of a more substantial nature. The thin light walls of such houses furnish but slight obstruction to the admission of either cold or at in a climate which is subject to extremes.

Bracketed houses, Italian villas, and Gothic cottages with French windows and Spanish awnings add variety and pleasant features, in the eyes of the fanciful, to a landscape, without giving that substantial protection from an inclement climate needed.

Another particular in which we as a nation are wanting, is in an architecture peculiarly our own. In riding through our rural towns what a diversity of styles meet the eye of the observant traveler; some houses will have one style of architecture, the next a different, the third a combination of the two previous, with perhaps an addition of two or three others. A country house should have a plain substantial look when finished, like the oak of the open field, not liable to be blown away by any ordinary wind, and be adorned by the surroundings, instead of that unsubstantial, but picturesque appearance which is presented by the architecture too prevalent at the present day. More attention should be given to the promotion of health and comfort in building, the extra outlay being given to these objects, and a small outlay of time given to the proper adornment of the premises by the suitable arrangement of the grounds, planting them with trees, shrubs, vines, flowers, etc.; and the suitable location of buildings connected therewith. With all the other defects of our present mode of building, there is a manifest want in the proper attention to the wants and conveniences of the good housewife, who is supposed to superintend the household affairs, etc. Rooms are planned and so arranged as to cause a needless amount of steps in the performance of the necessary work; the kitchen, which should be roomy and convenient, is merely a comfortably sized closet, and located with little reference to the convenience of other rooms in the economy of a woman's strength; and how unfrequently are they supplied with the conveniences of good running water, or in absence of this convenience, good well, and soft, or cistern water, with pumps, etc., convenient and in good order.

**BEANS** which have been weather-beaten so as to be unsalable, can be boiled up with small potatoes, and fed to the hogs. They are eaten with avidity, after the hogs have become a little accustomed to them, and are worth nearly as much as corn to fatten them. As it is possible that they might give an unpleasant flavor to the pork, it might be well to omit them two or three weeks before killing.

It is a common opinion that broken bones in horses will not reunite. This is a mistake. Reunion will take place in them as readily as in the human being, but the difficulty arises in keeping four-footed patients quiet during treatment necessary for the complete reunion of fractured bones.

### FARMERS SHOULD EMPLOY MORE WORKING CAPITAL.

WE think that a majority of American farmers will be ready to concede that they are unable to farm it as well as they ought to, for want of sufficient working capital. A farmer with insufficient working capital always labors under a disadvantage. When spring opens, he finds a vast deal of labor crowding upon him to be performed. Upon some fields where he wishes to sow oats, or barley, or spring wheat, very early, the water is standing, and there are no drains to convey it off rapidly, and he is obliged to wait for its slow evaporation. He has not had the field drained because he could not command the means to do it. The evaporation of the water cools the soil to such a degree, that when he gets his grain in, it is a long time in coming up, and is backward throughout the season. As it is late before the ground is in condition to work, he gets behind with his task, and realizes that another team and another laborer might enable him to catch up with his work; but he lacks the money to secure them. Finally, the plowing is hurried up too fast to be well done, and the grain got in too late, and in bad order. The result is less than half a crop. If he had possessed more working capital, he would have covered his ground with manure, and if his own supply had failed, he would have purchased some in the nearest town, and hauled it upon his ground, or would have made up the deficiency with bone dust, ashes, lime, plaster, poudrette, or some other fertilizer. As his sowing has been delayed, it has trenched upon the planting season, and his planting is done too late, too hastily, and consequently not well done. The results are similar to those of his sown crops.

Again, for want of capital he uses inferior implements, and works under disadvantage, and suffers loss from that cause. The same want is felt in cultivating his planted crops, and the yield is diminished for want of proper cultivation. Harvest and haying come on, and for want of laborers and labor-saving implements, the harvest is unduly prolonged, the grain becomes over-ripe and shells in gathering, or is injured by rain, and there is loss again. The hay gets too ripe, or is exposed too long in curing, is consequently inferior in quality, and tells upon the stock in winter. To pursue the subject further: the corn ripens before the farmer is ready to cut it up, and the stalks are injured for fodder; the potatoes are not dug until we have had some pretty hard frosts, and a portion of the tubers lying nearest the surface is frosted, and winter overtakes the farmer before his work is done, and finds him unprepared for the closing up of the season. From all these causes, the annual incomes of many farm-

ers are undoubtedly diminished at least one-half, and their lives harrassed until they are heartily sick of farming.

These losses and vexations might be avoided by increasing their working capital. "Oh, yes," exclaims the indignant reader, "increase our working capital!—and how is that to be done, pray? We are just able to bring the year around, now, and how are we to obtain any surplus to lay up for another year's use." Well, let us consider the question. Most farmers are too ambitious of owning a large farm. If they purchase one, they expend nearly all their money in the purchase, reserving altogether too little to stock and work it properly. It would be better policy to take up with less land, and then have the means to work it in such a manner as to ensure larger profits than a larger farm would afford, worked as they would be obliged to work it with their limited means; or, if they *must* have a large farm, it would be better to give a mortgage for one-fourth or one-third of the purchase money, retaining that amount to stock and carry the farm. They would much sooner have money ahead, than by paying all down, and then be cramped for want of means.

Those who have farms, and are compelled to cultivate under the disadvantages above described, would do well to sell part, and apply the receipts in working the remainder. We opine that their profits would be greater than they are under present management. Or, if determined to keep their farm intact, they had better mortgage, and borrow the money necessary to work it as it should be worked. Many farmers have their farms in such a shape that they could not part with a portion of it, without destroying the symmetry of the remainder; let such raise the money by mortgage; but in other cases, unless the farm is very small, we should prefer to sell a portion.

Will not those toil-worn, care-harrassed farmers, who have been all their lives behind their work, laboring under difficulties, suffering losses, deprived of the comforts and refining luxuries of the well-to-do farmer, simply because they do not employ sufficient working capital to carry on their farming operations in a thorough and economical way—give this subject thoughtful consideration, and resolve, now, in the beginning of a new year, upon a change in their management, and thereby attain to that high and enviable position which justly belongs to the free and intelligent American farmer?

P. C. R.

OVER 30,000 people were present at the opening of the first Louisiana State fair, four miles out from New Orleans, on Tuesday of last week. The exhibition of stock, &c., was very large.



## THE SPANISH FOWL—ITS HISTORY, VARIETIES, &c.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY C. N. BEMENT.



"This race," say the authors of the London Poultry Book, "possesses striking characteristics in its large comb, and white face. And, however these features have undergone changes, either from breeding in and in, or the admixture of other families, we have usually sufficient evidence of their origin, even when disfigured by illegitimate alliances." The names by which our domestic poultry are at present known to us, so far as they are indicative of their native country, are frequent matters of discussion. That Poland gave us the tufted bird, so remarkable an ornament to our poultry-yards, or that the Hamburgs were originally of German extraction, the evidence that we now possess, has not yet been certified; but with Spanish, the case is different; though possibly the wider term of the "Mediterranean" fowl, might be still more applicable.

From Gibraltar to Syria—North and South—the countries that border on the vast inland sea with the numerous islands, abound with fowls that bear such resemblance to the Spanish race in the striking points we had alluded to, as may warrant our assigning them to our common stock. Names also denote subdivisions of this family, strengthen our conclusion; for the "Anconas," and "Minorcas" derive their designations from localities that carry us back far beyond mere Spanish boundaries.

The quantity of poultry kept in those countries greatly exceeds anything we witness either in Eng-

land, France or America, even since public attention has been more generally given to this branch of agricultural economy. Purity of blood, however, is there but little esteemed, and the miscellaneous collection of hybrids, described by every Mediterranean traveler who has touched upon this subject, will probably long remain in the same heterogeneous state as we ourselves found it many years since.

We do not mean to affirm that any indifferent observer whose knowledge of these birds had been restricted to the pens of an exhibitor, would at once recognize the relationship between their sleek and well-conditioned tenants, and the comparatively meagre race, common in their districts, to which we have assigned the limits of what is now called the Spanish fowl; but with those who have examined with any care into the natural history of this section of gallinaceous birds, little hesitation would be felt as to the extreme probability of that common descent.

"They certainly are not likely to have had their origin in the more northern parts of the European continent; since those who keep them, know to their cost, how apt they are to suffer in their combs, and the fleshy excrescence on the face, in weather other poultry brave with impunity. Their prolonged and excessive mouth would be another reason for their sojourn under the mild temperature of those southern lands."

The introduction of Spanish fowls into Holland, and the low countries, may be reasonably assigned to that period when the latter territory belonged to Spain, and constant intercourse was maintained with the Peninsula by the commercial habits of the Dutch nation.

Mr. Dixon, who is regarded as one of the best authorities, says the Spanish breed is in all probability, of ancient and remote origin, and does really seem to have reached us from the country after which it is named. Spanish is said to be a misnomer, as they were originally brought by the Spaniards from the West Indies, and subsequently propagated in Spain; it is now very difficult to procure good specimens from that country. They were taken in considerable numbers from Spain into Holland, where they have been bred for several years, with care; and it is now from that quarter, the best specimens come. In some parts of England, they call the Spanish fowls, "Minorcas," "Anconas," and "Portugal" fowl. Neither of which term removes them far from their old established location, if not their original home.

In England they have long been favorites with poultry-keepers of all grades. A Mr. Bond says "that he has kept the Spanish fowls for more than thirty years, and his recollection carries him back to as good specimens in those days, as any that are now seen."

A gentleman, in whose opinion, as a naturalist, and in whom great confidence may be placed, states:—"In England there are two varieties of Spanish fowl—the black and the gray, or speckled, the latter being of a slaty gray with white legs. In Spain there must be several varieties of everlasting layers, for I have a lot abroad that differed widely in appearance, single combs, double combs, and a great variety of color."

We have seen and know enough of the white-face Black Spanish in its purity, to be a distinct variety. A thorough-bred Spanish fowl should be entirely black as far as feathers are concerned, and when in high condition displays a greenish metallic lustre. The distinctive features may be enumerated; plumage of glossy black, with brilliant reflected tints of green and purple; an erect, serrated, single comb; one great point is the dead white-face, spreading upwards entirely over the eye; but this is always attained by young birds of the year. But if well bred, there will be even at that early period, a slight milky look on that part of the face. Pullets do not gain the white so soon as the cockerils.

The black is not the only valuable race of the Spanish fowls; the white, and those going under the names of Minorca, Ancona, and Andalusians, which have neither the white-face nor high carriage of the pure bird. No other point occurs to us in which our description of the Spanish will not apply to the Minorcas. To avoid repetition, in the enumeration of the varieties of these fowls, we shall merely specify the points of difference.

The Anconas are first cousins to the Minorcas, the sole point of difference, being a mottled or splashed plumage, black and white, in about equal proportions; specimens of a rich partridge color, are not unfrequent. Colors of the mottled Anconas are seldom clear; and the appearance, therefore, is rarely calculated to obtain admiration. In the Minorcas we miss at once the white-face—the white ear-lobe, being alone of that color. But, in both cock and hen, the same development of comb and wattles, especially in the hens. Some have been seriously inconvenienced in feeding, by the undue proportions of the former lapping over the eye, and interfering with the action of the beak. They are also lower on the legs, and squarer built than the true Spanish.

Andalusian.—These fowls are represented as of various colors, gray and speckled. A few of this variety were imported into this State, in 1851, and described by E. H. Blivin, of Bridgewater, as follows: "The cocks are red, with large single, upright comb, deeply serrated, and of the most brilliant scarlet, with wattles of appropriate size. The hens resemble the black Spanish fowls in size and appearance, with a large deeply serrated, but drooping comb. Plum-

age of a gray or mealy white; and the tail tipped with black; legs of a bluish white to a slate color. The importer calls them Leghorns, from the port of exportation, under which name I exhibited them, at our county fair last fall, although I was convinced that they were identical with the fowls mentioned in Dixon's "Ornamental and Domestic Poultry," as Andalusian fowls, as imported from Andalusia, Spain, in 1846. At the suggestion of General R. Sherman, chairman of the committee on the fowls, I have adopted the name of Andalusian fowls, believing as I do, that they came originally from Spain. As layers, they are equal, if not superior to the Black Spanish fowls. They are a most valuable, as well as a beautiful addition to our poultry yards."—*Cultivator*.

The Fayal fowls are another branch of the Spanish breed. The White Fayal has all the characteristics and qualities of the Black Spanish, with the exception of size. They have the same large indented comb, with larger or longer wattles of a brilliant scarlet color; and when feeding, the wattles rest on the ground. They are considered by some fully equal as layers in the number of eggs to the Black Spanish.

White Spanish.—A pen of White Spanish birds were exhibited at Birmingham, in 1852. But regarding the striking contrast of its black plumage, the coral comb and the white face, as constituting the great beauty of the Spanish family, we can accord, but limited approbation to this variety, where both cheek and comb are sadly compromised by the substitution of so unfavorable a color for their mutual relief. Some birds imported in 1847, were white, but without the fleshy ear-lobe of the same color. Captain Hanly, tells us: "I have known White Spanish bred from black birds, but their offspring have been black again."—*London Poultry Book*.

There is said to be a large breed of fowls in Constantinople, and on the shores of the Black Sea, which is supposed to be a branch of the Spanish. The hens are described as having a large flaccid comb, flapping about like a piece of red serrated velvet, and as being astonishing layers, seldom sitting.

"It is a speculation," says an English writer, "whether the Spanish came to us from the East southwards, via the Black Sea, while the Polish might reach us overland through Russia."

ARCHED FLOORS.—Arched floors of concrete or beton, a mixture of broken stone, sand, and hydraulic cement, are being put down in Paris without any support of vaults, girders, or the like. The material is simply packed in or moulded on timber centerings, which are withdrawn when the concrete has "set."

## AGRICULTURAL REFORM.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY R. B. TOMK.

THE one great hindrance to the progress of modern agriculture, is its diffusion. The importance and expediency of attending to but one particular branch of farming, is too little noticed by agricultural men. While each and every farmer devotes his time and attention to all the departments of agriculture, no great progress ought to be looked for in either of them.

When we are challenged, as we often are, to show any one who has "made money by farming," we do, and must inevitably, point to those who have adopted some special branch of agriculture, thus proving that this is the more profitable system of farming. Whether farmers turn their attention to the breeding of cattle, cultivation of corn, grapes, or hops, or it matters not what, by concentrating their capital and energies on one such object, they achieve results far greater, than by the present diffuse system, and for reasons which are obvious on slight consideration.

The soil of every man's land is better adapted to the cultivation of some crops, than of others. Is it not sensible, then, to say, cultivate that crop to which it is best fitted, to the exclusion of all others? Again, the cost of the cultivation of one crop is much less than that of many, for the requisite tools are less numerous, and therefore less costly; and the out buildings, being erected for the accommodation of one crop only, would be proportionately small and inexpensive, and moreover, the time and labor required, would be less, and could be more opportunely and systematically, and consequently more profitably applied, than when the attention is distracted by all the various departments of farming. If farmers should adopt this mode, by reason of the very fact that all their attention and labor would be turned upon one branch of agriculture, they would become better acquainted with it, and therefore understanding the management of it better, would make it more profitable.

The manufacturer or the mechanic does not attempt to control all departments of his trade at once; why then, should the farmer? Let this great reform be effected, and American agriculture will have taken a long stride onward.

REMARKS.—Our correspondent has well stated the arguments in favor of making a speciality of one leading crop, by a farmer, or fruit-culturist, to the exclusion of others; but, we think that there are quite as strong objections to such a course.

1. The evil effects in diminishing the fertility of the soil—of running to one crop, instead of pursuing a wise rotation, has been demonstrated in all

parts of our country. The pioneers of Western New York made a speciality of growing wheat, and were exhausting this once fertile soil, at a rapid rate. So were the tobacco growers of Virginia—the cotton-growers of the Gulf, and the Mississippi States, and the sugar growers of Louisiana, converting those productive States into deserts.

2. Where the capital and labor of a farmer are principally expended upon one crop, the failure of that crop for two successive seasons would nearly bankrupt any ordinary farmer or horticulturist. For instance—the grape crop has proved an entire failure, in many sections, the last two seasons; now supposing horticulturists in those sections, had expended their capital and labor in cultivating the grape *exclusively*—how many could outride such reverses?

So of the apple and peach crop; and even corn and potatoes are complete failures, in many sections, this year. We are aware that if a farmer devoted his entire energies to the growth of one crop, he would cultivate it with that *thoroughness* which would prevent failure in many cases where failure ensues, under the present system—but then, there are seasons when the best culture would not ensure success—when the *midge* would destroy the wheat—a short cold season would prevent the maturing of the corn—when the potatoes would *rot*—or a severe protracted drouth would wither the grass. Therefore, notwithstanding Mr. T.'s weighty arguments, we believe that farmers are more certain of success, by cultivating, in a judicious rotation, a variety of crops.

## NOTES FROM CANADA.

WE have had an exceedingly beautiful and pleasant autumn so far, fine warm Indian Summer days, and cool nights, but no hard frost such as would necessitate any hurry in taking up the root crops, which are large and heavy this season, and still remain in the ground in most places. We had a week of wet weather the last of October, with a heavy snow storm or two, but not very cold, and the snow did not lie twelve hours on the ground. The fall wheat looks well for so late a seeding; and a great deal of fall plowing is being done. The fine weather and good roads, have enabled farmers to dispose of a great portion of their grain crops, while the navigation lasted, and prices have ruled high for fine samples of wheat, peas and oats, while barley has proved less remunerative than formerly, and less of it will be grown next year. Potatoes are a large crop, and cheap, notwithstanding they rotted considerably in some sections. A large quantity of fruit and ornamental trees have been planted this fall, and a more favorable season for planting has not occurred for years.

MAC.

# PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY, DELAWARE.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "COSMO." \*

How time flies! Only a day or two, it seems, since my last dispatch, till referring to the record, I find it a lunar month. It is this equable, double-drawn out Indian summer weather that has deceived and bewildered us. "Cosmo," birds, field crickets, and wild water fowl. Last night (Nov. 15th,) a great black cricket was *ke-kritting* as merrily under my window as if it were the first week in September. Wild ducks are covering all our estuary waters as quietly at home as if this bland, balmy weather was to be everlasting, and they were going to winter with us. Many of our beautiful Keystone songsters of the wild wood, which usually take their flight hence, the first week in October still linger with us, and even trees and shrubs show disinclination to lay aside their summer suits, and bare their branches to the bitter blasts of tardy winter. It is this carrying summer to the later verge of autumn that has lulled us all, and made us forgetful of the flight of time. Had November come in with blustering blasts, growing towards the middle into sleet, and snow, and cold northeast snow storms, as it usually does, we should all have been more mindful of the laws of life. The birds would have gone off, that cricket would have gone in, the last leaf would have gone down, and "Cosmo's" communication to THE FARMER would have gone on several days earlier. *Ah bien!* so we do not all get caught out in the cold, and by excommunication pay the penalty of our loitering. "All's well."

Cabbages, as well as the rest of us, have made a mistake in time, and instead of finishing up as cabbages are wont to do about November 1st, they go on growing, heading into such great globes, that if sharp frost don't put an end to expansion soon, there are likely to be fields covered solid with cabbage. I have never seen so many superb samples of mammoth cabbage heads afield, and going to, and in market, in my life. The extraordinarily drawn out warm autumn has lengthened out the life of sweet potatoes, giving us riper, bigger, and better flavored material in that line than we have had these many years. West Jersey men are jubilant over the sweet potato harvest.

I am of the opinion that the unusual extension of warm weather so late in the season, has benefited the Delaware peach growers more than any other class of community. I have been through many of the larger peach orchards, paying particular attention to the condition of the trees, and am safe in saying that we have never had peach trees since the memory of the oldest among us began to fix facts and dates, so well made up in their young

wood, thoroughly matured and hardened for hard winter weather. It is popularly believed by those who ought to be best posted about peach trees, that it will take a more severe winter than any we have record of, to cause a failure of next year's peach crop in Delaware, and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Wheat, wherever I have seen it, is growing magnificently, and a remarkable feature about it is, the land almost universally is in better tilth, cleaner from all foreign growth, either grass or weeds, and the wheat much more evenly put in the ground than we have ever had it before. These all speak well for the intelligence and progress of our farmers. If wheat growers are doing pretty nearly as well elsewhere throughout the country, the prospect is very nearly a certainty, that by this time another year, we shall have "fancy brands" selling for considerably less than \$18 per barrel at wholesale.

There begins at last to be a downward tendency in things we eat, though a few articles still maintain their higher flight most unaccountably. Among these are first, a really good milch cow. Why, at \$120 to \$155 for a fresh "native," warranted for nothing but to eat well so long as feed holds out, it is a long way cheaper to make our own milk, where we can buy whitening at five cents per pound, and water costs nothing.

Butter, or the manner of selling it in the markets of Philadelphia and Baltimore, is a mystery that no buyer can find out. Go through any of the markets any day, and colloquies like this you will hear everywhere—Purchaser comes at a butter woman or man with, "What's butter?" In New York, Boston, Rochester, Buffalo, or almost anywhere that English is spoken, it will be, "What is the price of butter?" But this way they say, "*What's butter?*" for short, just as they do "I seen" for I saw, and "his'en" for his. In Baltimore, the reply from butter huckster No. 1, will be, "Five 'levies' un a 'flp.'" In Philadelphia, "sixty eight cents." No. 2 charges fifty-five for just as good butter, No. 3 goes to fifty for a superior article. No. 4 flies up to seventy-five cents—butter not prime at that. No. 5 drops away down to fifty-five again. So they go, seesaw, up and down, all along in a row. Every vender has his or her own price, independent of everybody else, and your chances of getting the best butter in market is just as good at fifty as seventy-five cents.

Hens are on a strike. Eggs forty-five cents, the lowest; thence up to fifty-five, and will linger along those figures till two months beyond Christmas. These, and fruit, and fish, are among the things that are stubbornly set against coming down. So, perforce, we go up to them—all that are able to climb so far.

You may have seen what I have said elsewhere, editorially, about a new native raspberry that Madeline and I found in our wanderings. We believe it to be the best native berry in this world, and being in color very like a pearl, we have christened it the "Pennsylvania Pearl." We have gone out by rail on several raids, and transferred all the "Pearls" we can find to our cellar. Believing the berry worth a trial for position among the best, we are going to distribute, as we have been and are doing, two or three roots and several cuttings, so far as they go, to such as care to make application, each applicant sending what he or she pleases for the plants, if only a stamp to pay two ounces postage, all the same, if something towards railroad fare, all the better. I have no promise to make as to what "the Pearl" will be under cultivation, but as a wild plant it is certainly superior to any raspberry I have ever seen. I have an idea it will be something very good. We have not much of a stock, so please don't let all your FARMER family loose upon us. A few may address either "Cosmo" or "Madeline," Box 114 Sub-Post Office, Station C, Philadelphia, Pa.

A friend in North Carolina has been cultivating and this fall curing some samples of tea quite equal to anything John Chinaman ever put into a teapot. We are drinking it, and the next package of anything I send off, I will divide and send you a sample of this North State tea for an opinion. My friend is positive that it can be successfully and profitably cultivated as far north as the northern limits of North Carolina. I go a good way beyond that. A great deal of the best teas of China are grown north of the parallel of 40°, where the winters are as severe as they are in New England. Why not then, grow tea in New England, and all the Middle States, the great West, and Canada West? One of these days people will do it just as easily as they grow turnips. You'll see.

### ECONOMIZING FODDER.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "W. H. W."

THE deficiency, and consequent high price of hay, in many parts, the present season, will lead most economical farmers to consider willingly, all means of saving and lengthening out their fodder. Much may be done in saving food for stock, by providing good warm stables and shelter. If allowed to be exposed to the cold, wet, or snow of winter, they will consume large quantities of food in order to obtain the necessary carbon, to keep the system at a healthy temperature. A great saving of feed is also made by putting it in a more assimilable form than if fed in its natural state. The labor if continuation is saved, in part, to the animal by cutting y machinery; by such process, feed of a coarse

quality may be made quite palatable, especially if moistened, and a sprinkling of meal or shorts added; in this way quite coarse fodder is made to perform the offices of a much better quality, when fed in its natural state. Stalks, if cut to about an inch in length, and barely moistened to soften a little, with a slight sprinkle of salt, to give a relish, will be eaten nearly, if not quite clean, without any other seasoning. Straw, also if properly saved and cut, will furnish a large amount of food, especially when softened with water and a very small quantity of bran is added to tempt the appetite.

In cutting and preparing food it is not well to reduce it so fine as to do away with the necessity of the stock chewing thoroughly; for in case it is so fine as to pass directly into the digesting stomach, not being retained in the first stomach, and subsequently brought up and chewed as the cud, the digestive organs of the system are interfered with, and disease is the natural result. Very little danger is however, to be apprehended, except where the feed is slops, with very little or no hay, or other fodder is given, mixed therewith. Corn or straw fodder, chaffed and wet with water, that it will absorb in eight or ten hours, salting slightly, and allowed to stand twenty-four or forty-eight hours will be readily eaten and relished, and still better if in addition a few sliced roots are added. Corn fodder treated in some such way will be found to equal prime stock hay.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—From *The Oregon Agriculturist* we learn that this fair was well represented in choice stock of all kinds; but the show was decidedly small in the number of exhibitors. The attendance was better than expected, being about the same number that were present at former exhibitions of the Society. It says: "the stock parades were triumphs; not so much in a full representation of all the classes, as in the quality of such as were on parade. The most noticeable animal on the ground was Mr. Cross' 'Oregon Baby,' a steer seven years old, and weighing exactly 3,000 pounds. Messrs. Cross, Frazier and Brown, all of Marion county, were the principal exhibitors of horned cattle. The show of steers, calves, and cows would be hard to beat on this coast. In sheep, the French Merino showed the finest wool, the graded sheep were larger with good wool, but the Southdowns were decidedly the handsomest. The improvement in the flocks of the State within a few years, as shown at this fair, is something to be proud of. Of horses, we saw colts of one, two, and three years which would be hard to beat in any State." The display of agricultural implements was very meager. The fruit, floral and vegetable exhibitions were fair.





### BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. P. KRATOR.

THIS noble breed of domestic poultry is coming into universal favor—by all breeders of poultry throughout the country, and many farmers are adopting them as their barn yard fowl; their larger size and quiet habits, recommend them above any other fowls; a common board fence will confine them, they are perfectly hardy, stand our winter admirably—and if properly fed, will produce eggs, all through the winter. In 1853, I had three hens confined in a small yard they commenced laying in January, and continued doing so all through the winter without intermission. In February, toward the last of the month, I commenced setting their eggs, and succeeded without any difficulty in raising one hundred and fifteen chickens, besides selling six dozen eggs to other parties for \$3 per dozen. I sold the chickens for \$150—of course this was in the days when the "hen fever" raged so wildly all over the country." I have dressed chickens about the holidays, that weighed eight pounds; they were hatched in March, and were well fed during the fall. I have laid them side by side, by young hen turkeys, and they were the largest of the two.

There are two colors of the Brahmas, the light and dark colored; I have always preferred the light color-

ed, I think they are handsomer and more compact and are sure to breed up to the standard. Some people say they are not a distinct breed, but merely a Shanghai fowl—in fact a noted breeder of poultry in Albany, told me at the State Fair at Saratoga this fall, that the Brahma was nothing more nor less, than a Shanghai—known as the light and dark variety. My opinion is to the contrary of all this. An English writer says that he had a brother in India, long before they were imported into this country, who informed him of them, and pointed out to him the advantages they possessed over the Cochins, and Chittagongs. I think this idea of classing them as Grey Shanghaes, is entirely erroneous, and is only circulated to serve the end of breeders of Shanghai fowls.

As a market fowl, the Brahma particularly recommends itself. Its fine size and plump form makes it a desirable table bird. As an ornamental fowl, they are equally as handsome as any other variety—as some writer has said, a flock of Brahmas moving about on a lawn, has frequently been taken for a flock of lambs.

**LIME.**—In many parts of England they estimate the value of their land in proportion to the nearness of access to the limekilns, on account of its valuable properties when used for dressing. Farmers should give more of their attention to this subject, and use lime more liberally where the soil is not calcareous.

### AMERICAN FARMING AS SEEN BY AN ENGLISH AGRICULTURIST.

WE copy the following extracts on American agriculture, from *The Mark Lane Express*, of November 12, delivered before the Farmers' Club of Salisbury, England, by Mr. James Howard, of Bedford, who had just returned to England from an extended tour of the United States. After some introductory remarks, Mr. Howard commenced his subject as follows:—

*Extent.*—America is a country which must be seen to be understood. You may read volumes of books about a distant land, but a short visit will impress the mind more deeply, and afford more correct views than all the books you can collect. I had read much and heard much about America before going, but my mind was not impressed with anything like an adequate idea of its vast extent or its great resources. I went, I should remark, from New York through the State of New York, thence to Canada, through Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois, to Iowa, beyond the Mississippi, and back through Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania to Washington, Virginia, and New Jersey, to New York again; thence to Newport and Boston, through the New England States to Saratoga, and once more to New York. The enclosed land of America—I allude to the States, I leave out Mexico, Canada, and the other territories—amounts to the enormous breadth of 400 millions of acres; the unenclosed, or uncultivated, to about a billion and a half—figures which seem to dwarf Great Britain into a mere speck upon the map of the world. The area of the United States alone is bigger than the whole continent of Europe. Notwithstanding the vast extent of the territory indicated by these figures, the whole has been surveyed, and those portions which are likely to be settled within a reasonable time are mapped, divided into townships, subdivided into "squares," sections, and again into subsections. The roads and cross roads are also laid out, and the width determined. These several divisions are numbered and registered both in the office of the Surveyor-General at Washington, and in the Counties Register offices of the several States. No question, therefore, of title can arise, and land in America can be transferred as readily as bank stock.

*The People.*—I have said that America is a country which must be seen to be understood. I may say the same of its people. It is notorious how little the people of France and England, although such near neighbors, understand each other; but then they speak different languages; to me, however, it is passing strange, that people speaking the same language, reading each other's periodicals and literature; a people of the same race, descendants in the main of the same parent stock, should entertain so erroneous views respecting each other as do Americans and English. It is difficult to say

whether the Americans know less of the English, or the English of the Americans; but I incline to the latter opinion, and for this reason; where you meet with one Englishman who has been to America, you meet with ten Americans who have been to England. Again, it has been too much the fashion with our public writers to hold up the American people to ridicule, to represent them as rough, ill-mannered, boastful, unprincipled, with scarcely a redeeming feature. I cannot, of course, vouch for what they were in years gone by, nor can I say they are altogether free from the vices attributed to them. I do not maintain that in etiquette or personal manners they come quite up to the English standard, but any deficiency in this respect is more than compensated for by the absence of that stiffness and formality of the one class of English, and the extreme servility of the other class. I do believe the American people have been misrepresented and traduced by some of our public writers, in a way that no other people on the face of the earth have been.

Three of England's leading commercial men, who, after having visited America have published to the world their ideas of America and its people—I allude to Mr. Whitworth, of Manchester, an engineer of the highest celebrity, and subsequently more widely known by his improvements in guns; Mr. Chambers, the great publisher of Edinburgh; and lastly, Sir Morton Peto—these gentlemen, in my opinion, have in their books done not only much to enlighten us upon things in America, but they have done justice to the American people. Our professional writers have done them as great injustice. I went to America with a good many of the prejudices of Englishmen, expecting to find at least the bulk of the people rough, "rowdy," uncouth and vulgar. Dickens and other professional writers might have met with the characters they have portrayed. I can only speak of the people as I found them. I travelled some 5,000 miles without being once subject to insult or rudeness of any kind. I mixed with all classes—for there are no first—second and third class on their railways or steamboats, and I met with nothing but civility and politeness. The working classes are well behaved, and, as a rule, are better educated and more intelligent than our own. The wealthier classes I found to be communicative, open-hearted, and hospitable; indeed, as pleasant and agreeable a people as I could wish to mix with. I could give you many instances of what we know as "good breeding," but as it would be foreign to the objects of this club, I forbear.

*American Agriculture.*—I must now direct your attention to the real business of this evening's meeting, namely, the agriculture of America. America has been styled the granary of Europe; it is doubtless, the largest corn-growing country in the world. It is mainly upon its agriculture that the

progress of the country depends; its manufactures are comparatively unimportant, as from three-fourths to seven-eighths of the population are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Although we may learn a good deal on various subjects from our go-a-head kinsmen in the art and practice of agriculture, the old country is in the position of *teacher*. As might be expected in a comparatively new country, the agriculture, as a rule, is rough, and far behind that of England. That the farming should not have the neat and finished appearance which it presents in England and Scotland is not to be wondered at, when the dearth and scarcity of labor are considered, and when it is remembered how large a number of the cultivators of the soil were not brought up to the business of farming. A very large proportion of the farms in the older States have been reclaimed from the primeval forest; for hundreds upon hundreds of miles the stumps of the larger trees still remain in the fields, so that the date of the settlement of the locality can be calculated by the number of stumps remaining. In the rocky and stony districts the stones still remain piled in heaps, the plow and the reaping machine having to thread their way between the stumps and heaps of stones. The system pursued in clearing the land of timber is as follows: In the fall or autumn the underwood is cut and piled. In the winter the trees are felled on to or toward the stacks of underwood, which are then set on fire. After this, the small stumps are extracted by a crab, worked by oxen or horses; the larger stumps are left to rot. The ground is then plowed, or, as we should say *scratched* over. Two or three crops of Indian corn are taken, in order to get rid of the second growth of underwood; when it is left in grass until the larger stumps are sufficiently decayed to be extracted. The grass of America has nowhere the splendid, rich green of our English pastures. Whether this arises wholly from the climate, I have some doubt. I think want of care in preparing the land, selection of seed, and subsequent stocking have something to do with the miserable condition of the American pastures. If sheep are pastured on young permanent grasses, a good pasture must not be expected, even in our more humid climate. After having travelled for weeks through this old forest-land, with its blackened stumps and zigzag rail-fences (or "snake-fences," as they are called), to get a view of those grand, open prairie-lands is a relief scarcely to be described. In the wooded district the toil of clearing and bringing the land into cultivation is immense. On the prairies the settler has no such labor; he has simply to plow up the ground and sow the seed. The prairie lands are of three kinds—flat, something like our fens, and about as inviting districts to live in, without in many parts a tree or a shrub as far as the eye can reach. Then there are the rolling prairies—having a slight, undulating surface and some

wood—far less monotonous than the flat, but not, to those who have an eye to beauty, so inviting as the high rolling prairies.

The most beautiful country for farming I saw in America was in Iowa, across the Mississippi; indeed, it is one of the most picturesque countries I have ever looked upon. Fine land in this State is to be purchased at less than it would let for in England; but more on the price of land presently.—This fine State contains fifty millions of acres, only eight millions of which are at present under cultivation. The system generally pursued in American farming is one of exhaustion. The evils of this practice are beginning to be felt in the older-settled States in the gradually and steadily diminishing yield. There can be no doubt that the evils of such a course will be much more generally and seriously felt unless a change of system be adopted. Rotation is little observed. Root crops, except potatoes, are rarely seen. Crop after crop of corn is taken from the soil without anything in the shape of fertilizers being returned. The bones of the country are either thrown away, or, when collected, are exported. So also of the linseed and cotton cake—as there is very little native demand, they are exported to Europe. The use of manures and feeding stuffs is practised by a few, but they are quite the exception. An old farmer on the banks of the Wabash, in Indiana, told me he had grown grain crops—generally Indian corn—for thirty-five years in succession, with scarcely a dressing of manure, and that the last crop of Indian corn had yielded no less than 80 bushels an acre. This land as you may suppose, is remarkably rich; but as a shrewd Quaker farmer from Ohio, who joined us, about an hour after, remarked, such a course was too common, but it must come to an end—that he had cleared no less than 600 acres of land himself, had brought up a large family and settled them in farms, and found it most profitable to keep plenty of stock, to observe a proper rotation and to deal with the soil liberally. The farms are mostly small—averaging about 100 acres. In the Western country they are larger, many being 500 to 1,000 acres. One gentleman, Mr. Sullivant, in Illinois, who invited me to go and see him, farms 70,000 acres, and does it systematically and well. A large proportion of the cultivators are what may be described as working-farmers—men of rough exterior; but owing to the admirable public-school system, they are generally fairly educated. The immense circulation of most of the agricultural journals is a proof that they are a reading people. The larger and more opulent farmers are very gentlemanly and intelligent men; know well what is going on in England—I thought, sometimes better than some English farmers. There is another, and this a large class in America—I mean amateur farmers. Doctor



class in America—I mean amateur farmers, Doctors, lawyers, bankers, merchants, manufacturers—all seem possessed with the same love for farming so general on this side. I met with many of this class—for the acquisition of land is so easy—I found, however, that they told the same tale amateur farmers do on this side—viz., that farming was a very pleasant occupation, but that it does not pay. The wheat and other cereal crops are much shorter and lighter than we grow in England—I should say fully one-third less, 80 bushels wheat being considered a good crop. Indian corn yields far more—100 bushels an acre are occasionally raised; but fifty to sixty bushels is considered a fair crop. It is highly prized, is often cut green for fodder, and attains a height of 12 feet. The feed in an acre is something wonderful. It is given to all kinds of stock. I find my own farm-horses do well upon the grain.

(To be continued.)

## NOTES FOR THE MONTH, BY "S. W."

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

### A BETTER DAY AT HAND FOR THE FARMERS OUT WEST.

The *World's* New Orleans correspondent writes that the corn, wheat, and flour, is now coming from St. Louis in the new capacious barges of the new Mississippi line, which are laid directly alongside of ocean ships and steamers to discharge their freight, avoiding all the delay and expense incidental to wharfage, storage, cartage, &c. He says, "the practical working of these large barges for transporting grain in bulk and otherwise, is admirable; their expense is very much less than that of the costly passenger steamers, and their strength and capacity is much greater. One stout steam tug can tow down several of them at a time; they will doubtless ere long be used entirely." These barges can be towed as well even in low water from Keokuk and the Des Moines, as from St. Louis, a great boon to the Western Illinois and Iowa farmers, who now complain that the cost of railroad transportation on corn to Chicago, "eats up the crop." Another great advantage attends the New Orleans route to the ocean, the navigation of the great lakes and New York canal is closed more than four months of the year, while the Mississippi, as high up as Rock Island, is generally closed but a few weeks? Chicago must now look out for her laurels.

### TRENCHING OR RIDGING THE SOIL BEFORE WINTER.

"Hurricane," in *The Country Gentleman*, says he trenched several rods of land very deeply late in autumn, applying to it a great deal of rich stall manure, mixing the red clay subsoil in the ridges; leveled and planted the same with parsneps in

the spring, but did not get as good a yield from the trenched plot as from the surface soil of an untrenched plot. This can be very easily accounted for; the untrenched soil was very rich in the soluble plant food of yearly previous manurings, while the trenched soil, mixed as it was with the inert subsoil and crude manure, wanted another season to bring about the chemical combinations necessary for perfect plant food? If he had planted it the next year to a root crop, he would have had a much larger crop with no manure and even less tillage. I never yet got a large yield of any crop, except Indian corn, from coarse manure the first season, but always the second and third season without manuring, except a little hen dung compost to give the incipient plants what the Southrons call a "good stand." In fact, a highly manured alluminous soil, if only deeply trenched so as to make it friable and absorptive, will bear root crops without fresh manure than with it. That gross feeder, Indian corn, is the only plant I ever found to thrive well on a soil that was full of crude stall manure; and this is because the manure decomposes late in summer at the very time the corn is maturing its ears, and needs the nascent plant food most. Liebig has well said that "insolubility is synonymous with barrenness, and with inactivity in manure." The doctrine that stirring the soil and exposing it to atmospheric influence is manuring, is true, because this alone induces the action of those re-agents which make manure into soluble plant food, and also to absorb food from the atmosphere.

### BUENOS AYREAN CLOVER.

This is a perennial plant, umbel small, and berry when ripe, many seeded, stems creeping, spreading extensively, more than sixteen inches from the root, covering the ground with a thick luxuriant foliage, leaflets roundish like those of white clover, with black spot in centre. It is a very prolific and hardy plant, bearing the autumnal frosts well, but is killed out by hard winter freezing unless protected by a covering of litter. If it does not come in spontaneously, like the *Trefolium repens*, (white clover,) it stands drouth and high temperature much better, and affords much more pasturage late in the season. Our woolen mill superintendent, Mr. Cook, is not friendly to the introduction of this berry plant, into the sheep ranches of Texas, because the little burs fill the wool of the sheep to such an extent as to reduce its value nearly one half; but I here enclose a small sample of beans full of seeds, and if your Texas subscriber will send me his address, I will enclose him some by mail. Mr. Cook, has a large compost heap in his garden, six feet high, and flat on top, which is now in the middle of November, covered with a thick mat of this clover, beautifully

green and still growing; it was seeded there by the waste wool contributed to the pile. I should think that the Buenos Ayrean clover would be a valuable addition to the pasturage of the cattle ranches in the drouthy climate of California, as it was very luxuriant here during the extreme hot term and drouth in July last, when our white clover shrank into a pigmy state.

#### THE SENECA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

I was a little too fast in saying that the general exhibition at our agricultural county fair was *n'importe*; it is said that the display on the race course, setting aside the races, fast trotting, the superior show of fine carriages and equine perfections, was enlivened by the fine horsemanship of five fair equestriennes; that, even when in full tilt, they sat their pegasuses as composed and gracefully as though they had been schooled at the circus or the Hippodrome, giving to the enchained spectator the rare spectacle of female physical perfections, in healthy contrast with fashion's pompous puny efforts to compensate for nature's physical defects. Miss Gamber, a *fräulein* of Fayette, took the highest prize.

#### FARM TALKS—No. 7.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT,  
BELFAST, MAINE.

"Good evening, neighbor Wilson. Come in, and take a seat."

"Rather cool, this evening."

"Yes, just about right to make one enjoy a good fire, and be thankful for a home of his own, if 'tis an humble one. Sit up to the stove, and help yourself to some of those apples."

"What kind of apples are these?"

"They are called 'Kellum Hills.'"

"Do you like 'em better" 'an Bald'ins?"

"Oh, no, not for winter fruit. You will notice these are soft, and are now going out of date. They are an early winter fruit, but not to be compared to the Baldwin for general cultivation. We have found nothing yet that will equal the Baldwin for this purpose, and if I was to set out an orchard of a thousand trees to-day, I would have nine-tenths of them Baldwins."

"What you doin,' book-keepin'?"

"Yes, a little. Squaring up my accounts for this year. You know to-morrow is New Year's, and I always like to commence the new year with a clean sheet, and to know just how I stand with the world in general, and my fellow men in particular. Besides, I want to know whether it has paid for me to farm it this year."

"Can you tell for sartin'?"

"Certainly. I have all the items here. I can tell

just what everything cost me in money or labor, and what and how I paid for it, with its present value, and a great many other particulars which are valuable and interesting to one."

"Do you write it all down?"

"Yes, I note down all the particulars at the time they occur. I hardly ever trust anything of any account to memory more than a day or so."

"Makes a heap o' work don't it?"

"Of course it takes some time, but I find I cannot spend time to better advantage."

"Now, I allers keep most all my accounts in my head. It's well enough for storekeepers and sich fellers to keep 'counts, but I don't believe it pays for a farmer to do it."

"You don't. Well don't you think it's as much benefit to us farmers to know all about our own business, as it is for those of other professions to understand theirs? And how can we do it, unless we keep a systematic account of our operations. Do you know, Wilson, how much you have made this year by farming?"

"No, I don't know as I do, exactly."

"Are you certain that you hav'nt lost?"

"Well, I cal'clate I'm about square."

"Yes, but the fact is, you are not *sure* about anything. You cannot tell in which farming operation you made the most money, or which was the most losing, consequently you are not able to decide which will be preferable to follow next year, nor which method should be discontinued. This is only one of the reasons why we need to give more attention to our farm accounts and records. As a class, we farmers allow our business matters to remain unattended to, or if performed, it is in a bungling slipshod manner. We guess, we reckon, and we calculate about this, that, and the other matter, but in nine cases out of ten, we do not *know*. And this knowledge can only be attained and made of use by adopting and practicing a systematic method of keeping farm accounts."

WHY DON'T THE CIDER MAKE VINEGAR?—Is a question we often hear asked. We had a number of barrels of cider made in the fall of 1865, some of which turned into strong vinegar last summer, and the others utterly refused to make good vinegar. We made an investigation, and found that the refractory cider had been frozen. We came to the conclusion that frozen cider will not make good vinegar.

MR. LYMAN DUFFEE, of Bethel, Vt., wintered 65 sheep and has sold wool and lambs to the amount of three hundred and one dollars and seventy-eight cents. One of the lambs, 13 weeks old, weighed 76 pounds.

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Ox Yokes.**

A correspondent of *The Country Gentleman* gives the following directions for making an ox-yoke:—For common sized cattle, use a stick of timber, 8 by 10 inches, 4 feet 2 inches long, set on edge, and mark the centre for staple. Then measure 11 inches each way for center of inside bow holes—then 10 inches more for outside holes. Bore with a two-inch auger—the inside holes plumb, and the outside about an inch slant towards the middle. Cut down the necks within three inches of the top, rounding out nicely. Take off two inches from the ends on under side, and same from top in middle making a nice curve, also rounding off middle on under side; cutting away about two inches at the bow holes, and nothing in center. Then round off the ends both ways, hollowing out the sides (one inch in center each side,) paint and iron as I do, and you have a yoke that my cattle will pull in, without sore necks or shoulders, coughing, wheezing, choking or balking, and so will your's or any other man's. Cut nothing from the top between bow holes, except to smooth. Cut each way toward ends, and middle of yoke. Put in the staple vertically or there will be no pull in your team.

A correspondent of *The New England Farmer*, who claims to have had large experience with oxen, gives his opinion as to yokes, as follows:—

There are three points about an ox which are more liable to be made sore by ordinary work in the yoke than any others, viz.:—The top of the neck and the two shoulders. We often see oxen with sores on each of these three points. Sore shoulders are often caused by the bow being too wide. Sometimes it is caused by the bow being too square or too sharp on the outer edge. The bow should be perfectly round at the shoulder joint, and of such width as to come between the neck and shoulder joint. If any man does not believe this, let him put a heavy crow-bar on his shoulder and in the right spot, and walk eighty rods, and then put it on his shoulder and walk back.

The drop of the staple, as a general thing, should come down about half way from the top of the ox's neck to the shoulder joint. Oxen drawing on the lead need a more crooked yoke or a longer staple than when drawing on the nib.

**Gas Lime as a Fertilizer.**

An officer of the Edinburgh Gas Company, writing to *The Scottish Farmer* concerning gas lime as a fertilizer, says:

"I believe that waste gas lime is equal in efficiency to fresh lime for most of the purposes aimed at in its use in farm lands. I sold all the lime thus produced at the gas works in Forfarshire, for 16 years, to several farmers, who uniformly expressed their satisfaction therewith. One very useful application of it was its mixture with the large pile of weeds and tangled roots of grass cleared off the fields annually. On being composted in this way, the lime gradually killed all the vitality of these weeds, and returned them to the land in the way of manure. It also served the purpose of opening up stiff clay soil, being first spread over the surface, and then plowed down."

**Good Hens.**

In a late number of the *Country Gentleman* a poultry raiser said from thirty-five to forty eggs a year was the best average he had been able to get from about a dozen hens. This brought several companions to their feet. One gentleman in Ohio has thirty hens, which, in seven months from January 1st., had averaged seventy-one eggs. Another correspondent had picked up 1,519 eggs, from ten pullets of the white Leghorn variety, from the 1st of last September to the 1st of July this year, or 151 each in ten months. Still another, from ten Brahmas, has had 738 eggs, or nearly seventy-four each, from March 1st to July 31st, besides raising sixty chickens.

**Preserving Eggs for Winter Use.**

A country minister's wife writes to *The Scottish Farmer*: "Every evening I take all the eggs collected during the day, and rub them carefully with butter or the finest and purest lard. Every pore of the shell must be thoroughly filled, otherwise the air cannot be excluded. I have ready a box or tin canister, and plenty of salt. I put a layer of salt in the bottom of the box, and then place in rows my buttered eggs. Go on alternately with layers of eggs and salt until you leave perfect room for the lid closing firmly. The exclusion of air is the great secret of preservation. I have many different sizes of canisters stored in my pantry (on an open shelf) with preserved eggs. Those canisters I got from the baker or grocer for a trifle. My one and a half dozen canisters are 3d. each. My largest size contain ten dozen eggs, and cost 1s. The lid is quite as important as the box. Be sure it is close fitting, otherwise you will be vexed to find the eggs like those one gets in London, very unlike *wise-like* Scotch eggs. Many ladies tell me they have particular positions for placing the eggs, but I find mine are delicious after four months, by merely placing them *comfortably*, without reference to top or bottom."

**South Down Sheep in England.**

*The Mark Lane Express*, speaks as follows of the South Down sheep at the Smithfield sheep exhibition: The first prize in the class, with the silver cup for the best Down sheep, carried off by Lord Sondes. The Elmham Hall flock has only once been exhibited before out of Norfolk, saving at foreign shows, yet the present success proves what a high character pertains to sheep bred from Mr. Henry Overman's and Mr. Jonas Webb's stock. Splendid sheep these are, with a greater size and weight, and far better backs, than Lord Walsingham's and weighing on an average 224 pounds per sheep, while the Morton wethers weigh on an average only 209 pounds per sheep. This lot we take to be the gem of the show, and while your eye and hand approve their form and mutton, if you are a judge, you are sure to admire them even if you are not. Critic or not, you cannot withhold admiration from the even character of the beauties in this pen—the exact similarity of each animal to his fellow in form, style of carriage, and color and expression of countenance. This alone is a rare merit, irrespective of the excellence of the individual sheep; as the feeder experiences more difficulty in securing a level set of wethers than a fowl-fancier does in matching pullets for a show.

**Value of Poultry Manure.**

There is no manure made on a farm so valuable as that of poultry. One ounce of it properly diffused in a half pound of soil, and placed in a hill of corn when planted, will be as powerful a fertilizer as ten times its weight in barnyard manure. A foreign writer says: In France, as well as in our own country, most eminent chemists have proved by analysis that poultry manure is a most valuable fertilizer, and yet, for want of proper system in housing poultry, it has as yet not been rendered available to rural economy. The celebrated Vanquelin says that when the value of manures is considered in relation to the amount of azote they contain, the poultry manure is one of the most active stimulants; and when, as a means of comparison, the following manures are taken, in parts of 1,000, it will be found that—

Horse manure contains.....	4.0	parts of azote.
Guano as imported.....	40.7	do.
Guano when sifted of vegetable, &c.....	58.9	do.
Poultry manure.....	58.0	do.

**Poll Evil.**

A correspondent of *The Western Rural* gives the following remedy for this disease: "The top of the head must be covered with a piece of canvass, with two holes for the ears to pass through, and the sore must be washed daily with a lotion composed of one drachm of sulphate of copper to the pint of water."

**Corn Cobs as Fuel.**

*The Prairie Farmer* has been figuring some on raling corn and preparing it for market, and decides that it is better to shell the corn than to sell in gross, cob and all, as the practice of some farmers is. By shelling in a suitable machine and leaving the cobs whole, considerable is saved, as a ton of whole cobs is equal to a ton of coal for fuel. This is an item worthy of consideration in sections where much corn is grown and fuel is scarce and necessarily dear in market.

**Bed Your Stables.**

A horse, remarks *The Rural World*, will get tired of standing and treading on a hard floor; so will a cow, a sheep, a man. A soft bed feels easy—gives rest. And yet we neglect the bedding of our stables to a great extent. Injured limbs and other ailments, especially of the hoof, are the result often of a neglect here, as has been clearly enough shown, and as any man can clearly enough see, if he gives the subject a moment's thought. Bed with straw, which is plenty, or sawdust, or tan bark, or shavings. The dryer these materials are the better. Every day remove the moistened bedding and replace with new. Such a floor, well bedded, adds greatly to the warmth of a stable, and thus becomes a fodder saver. The small holes and crevices in a floor with a good bedding upon them, will let little or no cold through, and will drain the stable. Rather have a ground floor than hard, naked plank.

**Hog Cholera.**

The veterinary editor of *The North British Agriculturist* recommends the following treatment:—As the disorder is so rapidly fatal, remedial measures are seldom of much avail. The stomach and bowels should be

unloaded if the pig is tolerably vigorous, by an emetic of sulphate of zinc; a dose of castor-oil should afterwards be given: and if there is pain and scouring, the physic may be united with a little laudanum. A warm comfortable bed is essential; the diet should consist of milk and water, or well boiled gruel. We have seen little pigs benefited in the earlier stages by a warm bath; spirits and water, or ammoniacal stimulants, should be freely used to sustain the falling strength. The prevention of cholera will be effected by cleanliness, comfortable housing, and proper diet, avoiding especially all putrifying food and filthy water.

**Fattening Geese.**

A correspondent of *The Irish Farmers' Gazette* writes: "I see a question asked as to the best way of fattening geese, and the reply in your *Gazette* gives, in my opinion, a very troublesome one. I now send one which I have pursued for the last thirty years with the greatest success. Put up three or four geese into a darkened house, and give each bird one pound of oats daily, thrown on a pan of water. In fourteen days they will be found almost too fat. Thus each goose is ready for the table at an expense of one stone of oats, without any other feed. As geese pine if left alone, there never must be less than two left; as one is taken to kill I put another up."

**Clover Seed.**

We believe, says *The Rural New Yorker*, that a crop of clover seed taken from the land exhausts the soil more than the crop which is cut for hay. Any seed crop, it is well known, is more exhaustive than a mere fodder crop. One strong reason for cutting timothy for hay early, is to remove it from the soil before it has abstracted those elements which form the seed. It impoverishes the soil much less than if cut later. The first growth of clover is not generally disposed to seed much; hence it is not so exhaustive as other grasses if cut late. But the second crop, which bears the seed, is injurious to the land—at least the taking it away is. Unless remuneration is paid to the soil, it will pay better to let the second growth of clover rot on the land, or feed it off.

**The Ant Trap.**

As the season is at hand for those pests, says *The Canada Farmer*, the ants, housewives and others who are troubled with them may probably use the following trap to advantage: Procure a large sponge, wash it well and press it dry, which will leave the cells quite open; then sprinkle over it some fine white sugar, and place it near where the ants are most troublesome. They will soon collect upon the sponge, and take up their abode in the cells. It is only necessary to dip the sponge in scalding water, which will wash them dead out by tens of thousands. Put on more sugar and set the trap for a new haul. This process will soon rid the house of every ant, uncle and progeny.

**Warts on Horses.**

In reply to an inquiry how a wart can be removed from a horse, *The Irish Farmers' Gazette*, says: "Keep it constantly dressed in Archangel tar."



Winter Sports

## Horticultural.

### WHAT VARIETIES TO PLANT.

It has become one of the most difficult questions connected with horticulture, what varieties of fruits and vegetables to plant in our gardens? Our fathers had less trouble in that direction, the number of varieties of the different species in cultivation, being then, quite limited. But latterly, the varieties have been multiplied to such an extent, that even the expert is at a loss what to plant, and what to reject. The desire for improvement among horticulturists, the conviction that our best fruits are far from perfection, and that better varieties than any which we now enjoy, may be produced, by skilful hybridization, has created an eager demand for anything that promises to meet this want. Hence, new varieties that are highly recommended, are eagerly bought up at extravagant prices. Unprincipled men have taken advantage of this state of things, to impose new varieties upon the public, which have not received the test of thorough trial in different localities, and by means of extensive advertising and extravagant laudations, have made themselves fortunes. So many times have the public been defrauded in this way, that they have become distrustful of new candidates for their favor, and often hesitate to purchase really meritorious seedlings, for fear of being taken in again.

We intend to spare no pains to keep the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER advised of the merits of different fruits. We have a good sized garden (about twenty acres) in this city, where we are cultivating the leading varieties; and intend to test all new ones, that are respectably endorsed, and report results from time to time, in THE FARMER. We shall not condemn a new variety simply because it fails, nor shall we laud it to the skies because it succeeds with us; but shall visit other plantations, consult our exchanges, and correspond with practical horticulturists, and thus ascertain how it succeeds on different soils, and in various localities.

#### STRAWBERRIES.

We will commence with the strawberry, probably the most popular of the small fruits, and the most extensively cultivated. It is desirable to plant such varieties, as ripening in succession, will prolong the season as much as possible—early, medium and late varieties. We will first describe those which have been pretty well tested in different parts of the country, and then those which from a limited trial have proved promising.

*Large Early Scarlet.*—This is an old variety which is still cultivated in some parts of the country, for want of a better early one. Medium sized, conical, light scarlet, fair quality, productive.

*Downer's Prolific.*—Early, medium, nearly round, scarlet, rather acid, but highly flavored when fully ripe, and productive, if kept in hills; but such a runner as to injure its bearing if allowed to run.

*French's Seedling.*—Early, medium to large, oval, light scarlet, good, productive; rather soft for shipping.

*Jenny Lind.*—Early, medium, conical, light scarlet, good, productive in some sections—not in others.

*Wilson's Albany.*—This variety succeeds well in more localities, and will yield the market grower more money per acre than any other variety ever cultivated in this country. It is too acid to be in high favor, but less so on sandy soil and warm climates, than here. Early to medium in season, large, conical, crimson, a vinous acid flavor, much improved by hanging on the vine until dead ripe, but then it has a dark, dirty appearance; very hardy and productive.

#### MEDIUM IN SEASON.

*Triomphe de Gand.*—This berry succeeds a great deal better in some localities than in others. On heavy soil, near Rochester, also near Pittsburgh, Pa., it is quite prolific, and a favorite in market. On the light soils of Long Island and New Jersey, it is a shy bearer. Follows Wilson's in season; large, conical, inclining to coxcomb shape, bright scarlet, with glossy surface, high flavored.

*Agriculturist.*—This berry has evidently been overpraised, medium in season, large, long conical, deep scarlet, good flavored; but not very hardy or vigorous. Winter killed badly last winter, and threw out fewer runners last summer than any other variety in our plantation. We find the same true of other plantations in this neighborhood.

*Russell's Prolific.*—This berry does not fulfill its early promise. It is large, conical, bright scarlet, good, productive, a vigorous grower, but so soft that it will keep but a short time in hot weather; hence unfit for market. A pistillate variety, that must be planted near a staminate one to bear well.

*Green Prolific.*—Superior to either of the latter two, except in flavor. Large, nearly round, orange scarlet, rather acid, very hardy, vigorous, and productive.

#### LATE.

*Austin Shaker.*—This is a large, late berry, that attracted considerable attention at one time, but has about gone out of cultivation. Late, large, long conical, fair in quality, light scarlet, quite soft, productiveness variable in different localities.

#### PROMISING FROM LIMITED TRIAL.

*New Jersey Scarlet.*—Early, medium in size, long conical, bright scarlet, fair quality, quite a favorite, in some portions of New Jersey, beyond which it has not been much tested.

*Metcalf's Early.*—This variety originated at Niles, Michigan, where it has been fruited four years. It is highly extolled there, but as it has not been fruited elsewhere, its position is yet to be established. It is said to be eight or ten days earlier than Wilson's, large good, firm, uniform, fruit well up from the ground. We planted it last spring. The vine and foliage are slender, but vigorous.

*Durand's Seedling.*—This berry has not been tested beyond the grounds of Francis Brill, Newark, New Jersey. Large, oblong, bright scarlet, firm, good, productive, long season.

*Golden Queen.*—Some insist that this is identical with Trollope's Victoria; others as stoutly deny it. C

good soil, with high culture, it will produce splendid berries. Will not bear neglect. Late, very large, conical, symmetrical, light scarlet, good, a fair bearer.

*Jucunda*.—This is a promising new variety. Late, very large, conical, bright crimson, good, very vigorous, and productive.

Here is a list long enough, but there is not one which has proved through a series of years, and in various latitudes, entirely satisfactory. The Wilson, in size, hardiness, productiveness and adaptation to various soils and climates, comes the nearest to it; but it falls in quality. The Triomphe comes nearest the standard in quality, but fails in productiveness, in many localities; and so, if we follow down the list, every one has some glaring faults. Every year some new one starts up, promising to combine all good qualities, and exclude all bad ones—in a year or two it has passed into obscurity.

### SHRUBBERY.

MUCH has been done, within the last twenty years, towards cultivating a taste for the beautiful among our rural population, which is evinced in an improved architecture, and in filling the grounds which surround our dwellings with trees and shrubs. Still, there is great room for improvement in that direction. We fail to select the most suitable trees and shrubs, and still more, in a picturesque arrangement of them. In the hope of contributing a little towards a proper selection of shrubs for the lawn, we give a description of some of the most desirable ones.

Large trees should not be planted very near a dwelling house, as their shade injures the house, and is deleterious to the health of its inmates. Neither should they be planted directly in front of the house, between it and the high way, as they hide it from the passers by. These places may be occupied by shrubs. They prevent the front yard or garden from looking too bare, but do not hide the prospect. We give in the following list, both the botanical and common names of the shrubs.

#### DECIDUOUS SHRUBS.

*Amygdalus pumila*, fl. pl., (Almond Dwarf, double flowering).—This is a beautiful little shrub, growing from four to six feet high, and bearing in late spring or early summer, a profusion of small, double, rose-like flowers.

*Berberis vulgaris*, (Common Barberry).—From eight to ten feet high, armed with sharp thorns, bearing racemes of yellow flowers, in May, and an abundance of red berries in October, which hang on all winter, affording a lively contrast to the snow. It makes a beautiful, formidable, hardy hedge.

*Calycanthus levigatus*, (Sweet Scented Shrub).—Produces flowers in June, something the shape of a strawberry, and with a similar odor.

*Daphne mezereum*, (Mezereon Pink).—A pretty shrub, blooming early in spring.

*Deutzia scabra* *D. gracilis*, (Deutzia White flowering, D. Graceful).—Beautiful shrubs, bearing in abundance, white flowers in June.

*Euonymus*, (Burning Bush).—This is a tall shrub, bearing bright, red berries in autumn, which hang on well into winter.

*Foraythia virridissima*, (Green Forsythia).—Produces an abundance of beautiful yellow flowers, early in spring.

*Hibiscus syriacus*, (Althea frutex, or Rose of Sharon).—There are several varieties of this species. It is a large shrub, producing in autumn, large flowers, resembling hollyhocks in form, variegated in color.

*Lonicera*, (Honey-suckle).—Of several varieties, blooming in early spring.

*Philadelphus*, (Syringa).—There are several varieties of this species, all of which are beautiful, and the coronarius, or Mock Orange, is delightfully fragrant.

*Pyrus japonica*, (Japan Quince).—The wood of this shrub somewhat resembles the quince. It bears a profusion of brilliant scarlet flowers, early in spring, makes a beautiful ornamental hedge.

*Ribes Sanguineum*, (Red Flowering Currant).—Makes a great show of bright flowers, early in spring.

*Robinia hispida*, (Acacia Rose shrubbery).—A shrub resembling the locust, and bearing a large, rose-like flower.

*Spiraea*.—There are a number of varieties of this beautiful shrub, blooming through the spring and summer.

*Callosa Reevesii*, *R. flore pleno*, and *Prunifolia flore pleno*—are very beautiful.

*Stuartia pentagynia*, (Stuartia Large Flowering).—This is one of the most beautiful of large shrubs. It bears, in August, an abundance of large, white flowers.

*Syringa*, (Lilac).—This old-fashioned, exceedingly fragrant shrub, is too well known to require any description. The Persiah varieties are an improvement upon our common ones.

*Viburnum Opulus*, (Snowball, or Guelder Rose).—A well-known, large shrub, bearing flowers, the size and color of snowballs, hence the name.

*Weigelia Rosea*.—One of the most beautiful of shrubs, laden in May, with a profusion of rose-colored flowers.

#### EVERGREEN SHRUB.

There are a few species of hardy, evergreen shrubs, which add much to the beauty of the lawn, especially in winter.

*Andromeda floribunda*, (A Flowering).—A fine, hardy evergreen, blossoming in April.

*Rubus, arborescens*, (Tree Box).—Does a little better planted slightly in the shade. Resembles in foliage the dwarf box, used for edging. May be trimmed in conical shape, with pleasing effect.

*Kalmia latifolia*, (Laurel, Broad Leaf).—This native evergreen grows from eight to ten feet high. Flowers in May and June, large, pale red, sometimes white.

*Retinospora ericoides*, (Cypress, African).—One of the finest imported evergreen shrubs. In growth resembles the junipers.

*Rhododendrum Catawbiense*.—This splendid shrub endures the winter in latitude of New York City. Bears in summer large clusters of brilliant flowers.

The reader will find in the above lists the most desirable hardy shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen, that are cultivated in this country. One half of the



tastefully arranged in the grounds, surrounding the dwellings of our farmers, would add greatly to their attractiveness, and would contribute to endear the homestead to all the members of the family.

### THE BALSAM.

THE Balsam is one of the most popular, and one of the most beautiful of our annuals. With choice seed and a good rich soil, no flower—not even the most showy exotic, will excel it in magnificence. The Balsam is classed among our half hardy annuals, and will not endure the least frost, it is therefore necessary to sow the seed in a hot bed or cold frame in the spring, or in boxes in the house, if the plants are desired early. Very good success may be had by sowing the seed in a warm border about the middle of May, or as soon as the weather becomes warm and settled. As soon as the second leaves have made a little growth and are about an inch in length, the plants are ready for setting out where they are to flower. Put them out from six to twelve inches apart. If they are to grow in the natural way without pruning, the latter distance is none too much.

The great fault with the Balsam is that it branches so much, that the central flowers, in fact the greater portion are concealed. This is entirely remedied by proper pruning or pinching. When the plant is four or five inches in height, pinch out the central shoot or leader and all the side shoots but three or four. These will grow very strong, with a fine open head, showing a mass of flowers. It may be necessary to pinch off stray shoots occasionally during the growth of the plant. Treated in this way, about ten inches apart is the proper distance.

Another very good way of pruning the Balsam is to take off all the side shoots as fast as they appear, leaving only one main stem. This will grow very strong, and to a great height, and take up but little room laterally, and therefore may be planted about six inches apart. With plants treated in this way, and properly fed by a rich soil, flowers will be obtained of unsurpassed beauty. The late varieties grow from eighteen to thirty-six inches in height. There are dwarf varieties suitable for small beds and edgings, growing from six to ten inches. These are valuable for the outside row of beds as they do not conceal those in the rear, as would be the case with the tall sorts. They may be pruned like the higher kinds, but it is not so necessary when planted as an edging.

For the back ground of a ribbon border or the centre of a ribbon bed, the Balsams are excellent. The style of planting known as "ribbon," so popular in Europe, has not been practiced to much extent among amateurs in this country, and yet it is a very pretty method of planting, always when well done affording

great satisfaction. The plan is very simple. A bed is selected, say six feet wide, of any length. Divide it to four strips, 18 inches wide. Plant the first strip with some blue flower, the second white, the third red, the fourth yellow. The bed may be wider, and have more colors, to suit the taste or convenience of the cultivator. This gives the bed the appearance of a fine ribbon, hence the name. A circular bed can be made in the same manner, of a number of rings, each color nearing the center being a little taller than the one that precedes it. Care must be exercised in planting to get plants that will all bloom at the same time, and con-



tinue long in flower, for if one variety fails, it destroys the effect of the whole. A very pretty ribbon bed is made by using different colors of the same flower, like *Phlox Drummondii*, stocks, &c. In our next we may give further information on the subject of ribbon beds, with illustrations.

The accompanying illustration is from *Vick's Floral Guide, and Illustrated Catalogue of Seeds*, a most beautiful annual, worth its weight in gold to the lovers of flowers.



## Ladies' Department.

### DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

**MRS. GILMORE'S YEAST CAKES.**—(Excellent).—Put to soak in a little milk warm water, two of Stratton's or other good maker's yeast cakes—or if a half pint of good fresh brewer's yeast can be procured, it should be preferred. Scald with boiling water two quarts of flour, cooling afterwards with cold water to thin the batter, and to allow of the addition of the yeast, which should be added only when the mixture is merely milk warm. Let it stand over night to rise. Early in the morning, cover one quart of hops with two quarts of water. Let it boil one-half hour, then strain, and when sufficiently cool add to the last night's emptyings, pulverize two tablespoonsful of alum and put into the batter, mix with Indian meal sufficiently stiff to allow of its being rolled thin, and cut into cakes. When cut, place immediately on flats or a clean board, in a very hot sun, turning often during the day. In twenty-four hours they should be thoroughly dry and ready to put away in bags for use. The cakes should be made early in the morning, and on a good clear dry day, as inattention to the drying process will result in the cakes souring and of course spoiling.

**WHERE TO PUT IN A NAIL.**—Many persons, especially ladies, are ignorant of the proper place in which to drive a nail in a wall when desiring to hang a picture, &c. Examine the wainscoting around the bottom of the wall and where you find the heads of the nail that have secured it to the wall, immediately over it from the bottom upwards will be the only place wherein to find a firm footing for a nail.

**MINCE MEAT.**—An English correspondent sends us the following receipts for mince meat, and hunting puddings:—"For the mince meat, take 1 pound of lean beef, boiled well, and chopped fine; 1 pound of suet, chopped fine; 1 pound of apples, chopped; 1 nutmeg, 1 half-pound of candid lemon peel, and 1 half-pound of candid citron; 1 pound of sugar, 2 pounds of raisins, stoned, of course, and chopped fine; also 2 pounds of currants, the grated rind of four lemons with juice, the whole to be well mixed with a pint of brandy, and a little sherry wine. This mince is only *au fait*, when the pies are made in small patty pans, and the crust very light and tender.

**HUNTING PUDDING.**—One pound of stale bread, rubbed or grated into crumbs; 1 pound of well washed and pickled currants, 1 pound of raisins, stoned, and chopped fine; 1 pound of beef suet chopped, half a pound of candid peel, and 1 pound of sugar. Well mixed with 4 eggs, and 2 oz. of molasses.

Mrs. E. A. Call, of Fabius, sends us the following:

**HOW TO MAKE SAUSAGES.**—Take fat and lean meat, free from skin, and chop very fine. Season as follows: To 20 pounds of meat, add seven oz. of salt, 2 ounces of sage and black pepper according to your judgment. Mix well, stuff skins or pack in pans. If packed, dip a clean dry cloth in melted lard, and spread over the meat. Cover the pan also, and set in a cool place.

**HEAD CHEESE.**—After the head has been well scraped and soaked in several waters, till quite white, boil until tender, remove the bone, put the meat while hot, into a strainer and press out all the lard. When cool, chop, but not too fine. After chopping, place the meat in a kettle upon the stove, till scalding hot, season with pepper, salt, and nutmeg. If desired, stir well with a spoon and pack in pans.

**REMARKS.**—We prefer that the heads should be salted for a week, at least, before the boiling. A little salt-petre we always add to the salt, as it makes the cheese of an excellent color and improves the flavor, we think. Our method has always been to chop the meat immediately after taking from the fire, pack and press in small molds convenient for the table. It will be found that the superfluous fat will rise to the top and may be removed when cold. *Try it.*

Mrs. Call also sends:—

**PICKLED HEAD CHEESE.**—Cut in slices an inch or two thick. Place in a jar and pour cold vinegar over sufficient to cover them. Close the jar tight, and set in a cool place. It may be used in twenty-four hours, but will keep a long time.

We think farmers should scarcely need this:—

**MOCK APPLE PIE.**—Break two and a half soda crackers into small squares and lay around a pastry covered plate. Sprinkle over one teacupful of sugar, a small teaspoonful of tartaric acid, and a teacup of cold water. Flavor with lemon.

**CHRISTMAS CAKE.**—One pound of sugar and one-half pound of butter beaten to a froth. One pound of flour, and one pint of sour cream, with one teaspoonful of soda, flavored with one tablespoonful of cinnamon.

**STRAIN THE BUTTERMILK.**—Place a common wire sieve over a milk pail, and allow the buttermilk to flow into it, moving the straining gently with a spoon from one side of the sieve to the other until the buttermilk is gone through. What is left makes excellent shortening. It may be tried out by gently simmering till the sediment settles and the oil floats on the top. Where a great many cows are kept the quantity of butter saved in this way is quite considerable.

**A GOOD JOHNNY CAKE.**—Some one asked for a receipt for making a good johnny cake. I occasionally make one after this rule: one cup of sweet milk, one cup of buttermilk or sour milk, half cup of molasses, one cup of flour, two cups of meal, one teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of saleratus, one teaspoonful of caraway seed. Mix them all together, and bake quick in a hot oven fifteen or twenty minutes.—*M. P. B., in New England Farmer.*

**PIE CRUST.**—Take one pint of buttermilk, one large teacup of lard, one teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of saleratus, and flour enough to form a dough. Mix the lard and flour by rubbing them together; then add the other ingredients, knead well, and it is ready to roll out. Tender and good.

**STEAM PUDDING.**—One cup sour milk, one teaspoonful cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful soda, two eggs, one teaspoonful salt; make as thick as griddle cakes, and steam one hour; add whatever fruit you like.

## Miscellaneous.

### NEW WAY OF PAYING SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE following is an amusing account of the way a farmer was taught how cheaply he could take the paper. The lesson is worth pondering by a good many men "we wot of."

"You have hens at home, of course. Well, I will send you my paper for one year, for the products of a single hen for one season; and the proceeds. It seems trifling, preposterous, to imagine the products of a single hen will pay a subscription; perhaps it won't, but I make the offer."

"Done," exclaimed farmer B., "I agree to it," and appealed to me as a witness of the affair.

The farmer went off apparently much elated with his conquest; the editor went on his way rejoicing.

Time rolled around, the world revolved on its axis, and the sun moved in its orbit as it formerly did; the farmer received his paper regularly, and regaled himself with the information from it, and said he was surprised at the progress of himself and family in general information.

Some time in the month of September, I happened to be up again in the office, when who should enter but our friend farmer B.

"How do you do, Mr. B.?" said the editor, extending his hand, his countenance lit up with a bland smile; "take a chair and be seated, fine weather we have."

"Yes, sir, quite fine indeed," he answered, and then a short silence ensued, during which our friend B. hitched his chair backward and forward, twirled his thumbs abstractedly, and spit profusely. Starting up quickly, he said, addressing the editor, "I have brought you the proceeds of that hen."

It was amusing to see the peculiar expression of the editor, as he followed the farmer down to the wagon. I could hardly keep my risibles down.

When at the wagon the farmer commenced handing over to the editor, the products, amounting to eighteen pullets, worth twelve and a half cents each, and a number of dozens of eggs, making in the aggregate, at the least calculation, one dollar and fifty cents more than the price of the paper.

"No need," said he, "of men not taking a family newspaper, and paying for it too. I don't miss this from my roost, yet I have paid for a year's subscription and over. All folly, sir; there's no man but what can take a newspaper; it's charity, you know, commenced at home."

"But," said the editor, "I will pay you for what is over the subscription, I did not intend this as a means of profit, but rather to convince you. I will pay—"

"Not a bit of it, sir; a bargain is a bargain, and I am already paid, sir—doubly paid, sir. And whenever a neighbor makes the complaint I did, I will relate to him the hen story. Good day, gentlemen."—*Ag. Rev.*

**CORRECTING HIS MASTER.**—"I say, what are you about,—sweeping out the room?" "No," answered Pat, "I am sweeping out the dirt."

**THE LORD'S PRAYER.**—Did you ever think, short though it is, how much there is in it. Oh, it is beautiful! Like a diamond in the crown of a queen, it unites a thousand sparkling gems in one.

It teaches all of us, every one of us, to look to God as our parent—"Our Father."

It prompts us to raise our thoughts and our desires above the earth—"Who art in heaven."

It tells us that we must reverence our heavenly Father—"Hallowed be thy name."

It breathes the saint's reward—"Thy kingdom come."

And a submissive, obedient spirit—"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

And a dependent, trusting spirit—"Give us this day our daily bread."

And a forgiving spirit—"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

And a cautious spirit—"Deliver us from evil."

And, last of all, an adoring spirit—"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

**VALUABLE ADVICE.**—A man in Hartford, Conn., advertised recently that, on receipt of a certain sum, he would by return mail instruct any applicant how to make a fortune. His directions were:

"Peddle cigars, half Havana, half home made, as I did, and always be ready to pick up a stray chicken." He might have added: "If that fails, advertise as I do, that you will instruct others how to make a fortune—and pocket the proceeds."

**RELATION OF BEARDS AND EYES.**—There is an intimate connection between the nerves and muscles of the face and eyes, and allowing the beard to grow strengthens the eye. It is said that surgeons in the French army have proved by experiment in Africa that soldiers wearing the beard are much less liable to disease of the eye, and it is generally conceded that if the custom is to wear the beard the eye retains its lustre and brilliancy much longer.

A SICK man was telling his symptoms which, appeared to himself of course dreadful, to a medical friend, who, at each new item of the disorder exclaimed, "Charming! Delightful! Pray go on!" and, when he had finished, the doctor said, with the utmost pleasure, "Do you know, my dear sir, you have got a complaint which has been for some time supposed to be extinct?"

A SCHOOLMASTER in a Western village, where the custom of "boarding round" prevails, recently received notice from a Dutch matron that she "would eat him, but couldn't sleep him." He will doubtless be careful not to venture within her reach.

Miss Thompson says that every unmarried lady of sixty may consider that she has passed the Cape of Good Hope.

THE cactus plant is peculiar to the new world; those few species which have spread over the southeast of Asia are supposed to have been introduced.

## Young People's Page.

### TALK WITH THE YOUNG FOLKS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER BY C. H. BEMENT.

It is a long time since we had a chat with our young friends. We will now, with your permission, Messrs. Editors, resume the pleasing task, and give a little—

*Advice to the Boys.*—Rely upon yourselves. Never ask a favor. It is better to suffer than to supplicate; and asking a favor even from your dearest friend, or your nearest relative, is only a mild form of supplication. Get what you want by your unaided exertions, or go without it. There is more dignity in penury, no matter how abject, coupled with independence, than is gained through the grant of a favor.

You are made to be kind, said Horace Mann, generous and magnanimous. If there be a poor boy in the school who has a club foot, don't let him know that you ever saw him. If there be a boy with ragged clothes, don't talk about rags when he is within hearing. If there be a lame boy, assign him some part of the game which does not require running. If there be a hungry one, give him a part of your dinner. If there be a dull one, help him to get his lesson. If there be a bright one, be not envious of him; there are too many great wrongs, and no more talents than before. If a larger or stronger boy has injured you, and is sorry for it, forgive him and request the teacher not to punish him. All the school will show by their countenance how much better it is than to have a large fist.

Speak to that young man who twirls a cane, sports a watch-fob, smokes a cigar, chews a cud of the Indian weed, drinks a gin-cock-tail or mint julep, cracks a joke at the expense of woman's virtue, breaks the Sabbath, laughs about his parents, profanes God's name, contemns religion, and thinks that crimes are smart jokes. He is in a bad way. He treads on a bed of serpents. He knows not his danger. Hail him, and tell him better things.

*Talk with the Girls.*—The world must always love its girls, and this because they are generally fresh with characteristics. They look and breathe of the country. The flowers on their faces, the health of their frame, the freshness in their hearts, the innocence and truth in their souls, must always recommend them to all whose esteem is worth having. Let them prize these things. Health is the source of energy, and the right arm of usefulness. Health is the great law of personal beauty. Health in the woman is the wealth of a country. Of what avail is an invalid woman? What is a nation of them worth? It is scarcely possible to prize good health too much. Then let the country girls seek wholesome ways of living, eschew all effeminating habits, and make it one object of life to obey every law of health, and never come under the Doctor's care. Let it be their's too, to learn the art of living; that is, learn how to live, and live well. To know the art of living is a richer attainment than all the French, embroidery, music and painting, of all the seminaries

in the country. We have nothing to say against these fashionable accomplishments. We have nothing to say against a good education for the girls. But before everything else of an educational character is the kitchen and dining-room, the education of the home circle. The art of living is practiced in the home circle; it ought to be cultivated there. It ought to be studied. Simply working and eating is not living. Lead bread, hard biscuit, watery potatoes, tallowy butter, greasy pies, and other things, cooked in the very worst possible manner, is not living in any true sense. Sleeping in close rooms, where not a breath of fresh air finds admittance once a week, in unaired beds, is scarcely living. Almost the whole art of living well, living intelligently, living so as to enjoy life, improve ourselves, and be useful, is in the hands of woman. It is soon to be left to the girls. How will they attend to it? Will they do just as their mothers and grandmothers have done? Will they make no improvements? Will they add nothing new and useful to the home enjoyments and comforts? Girls must not be satisfied with doing just as their mothers did. We live in a progressive age. We laugh at the farmer of these days who obstinately sticks to the old ways of his father, and sows his wheat broadcast, where drilling is better, and reaps with the sickle or cradle in these horse-power reaper times. So we laugh at the house-wife who makes no effort to improve upon her mother's style of house-keeping.

There are improvements everywhere for all out door and mechanical work, why should there not be for the work of the house-wife? Will the girls invent new modes of cooking, washing, ironing, sewing, mending, brushing, &c., &c.? It is not possible that perfection in all that belongs to house-keeping is attained. We fear that women are not wide awake in relation to these things. They seldom try their inventive genius or skill on any article of household industry. We have new kinds of soap, wash tubs, washing and wringing machines, churns, cooking stoves, sewing and knitting machines, new ways of making bread, soup, and many other dishes that are real improvements on the old; but seldom, if ever, has a woman introduced any of these improvements. Why not? Simply because women have not tried. They trudge on in the old way till something opens a better, and seem to think they must. This is wrong, decidedly wrong. And we propose that the girls shall wake up and see what improvements they can introduce, how much better they can practice the art of living than their mothers. And we appeal especially to the country girls, hoping that they will respond with suitable efforts for a better order of house-keeping.

THERE are a multitude of people who destroy themselves through irresolution. They are eternally telling about what they mean to do, but they never do it.

ONE of the saddest things about human nature is, that a man may guide others in the path of life without walking in it himself; that he may be a pilot, and yet a castaway.

## Editor's Table.

THE AMERICAN FARMER for January is before you. To all our friends, both old and new, we cordially wish a HAPPY NEW YEAR, and invoke their co-operation in our endeavors to make the paper still more widely known. THE FARMER is rapidly gaining in public favor, our circulation increasing at a very rapid rate.

The new design at the head of the paper, we think will be found very appropriate to our columns, and will strike all as being a great improvement in that particular. Our motto is, Forward. We have few promises to make as to future numbers, but shall use our best endeavors, (as in the past,) to furnish a good, reliable, agricultural and horticultural paper. We are promised many valuable communications on all subjects from practical farmers and others, which will be found invaluable to the agricultural public. Among others, letters from the Great Exhibition at Paris, and from our hosts of correspondents in all sections of the country, which will be found highly interesting. Several illustrations intended for this number are crowded out, and also many valuable communications, which will appear in our next and future numbers. Our list of prize essays, published on another page is meeting with great favor, and calling out many valuable communications on those subjects which we shall commence publishing in the March number.

Neither labor nor expense will be spared to make the new volume still more interesting and valuable than the first, and we hope all our patrons and agents will each and show this number to their friends and neighbors, and solicit their aid in supporting the *cheapest* agricultural journal in America.

Let all feel personally interested in making "The Practical Farmer's own Paper" known, and aid us in increasing its circulation. We have no paid agents, but all can take some of our liberal premiums offered on the last page. We desire to reward all who labor with us in extending its circulation, and trust our readers will interest themselves in the formation of clubs, and otherwise.

We propose during the year to furnish information on nearly every topic connected with Agriculture and Horticulture, and our pages are at all times open to readers, from whom we shall be pleased to receive communications or inquiries on subjects of interest to the agricultural community.

THE MASSACHUSETTS PLOWMAN.—We are always pleased to notice the marks of progress indicated in our contemporaries, and the issue of December 8, of this sterling New England paper, (weekly,) comes to us enlarged to thirty-six columns, and with a beautifully engraved new heading, emblematically designed. It will hereafter be entitled "The Massachusetts Plowman and New England Journal of Agriculture," in conformity with certain arrangements lately completed with the New England Agricultural Society, by which *The Plowman* is hereafter to be regarded as their official organ. The price continues the same, \$2.50 per year in advance. George Noyes, Publisher, Boston, Mass.

## Bound Volume for 1866.

WILL be sent to any person, postage paid, on the receipt of \$1.25, or to any of our agents, who will get up a Club of Twelve Subscribers for the year 1867.

## Notes on the Weather, from November 15th to December 1st, 1866.

The last half of November has been above its average heat, as 38.11° to 35.11, or 3° above the average. The range of those averages for the last half of November has been from 27° to 42.6°, and of the month from 32.6° to 46.3. The heat of the month was as 39.6° to 38.0, or 1.5° above the general average. The hottest in the month was the 27th, the noon being 58, and the day 55°, and the morning 50°; not so warm a day since Oct. 23rd. The first half was so near the average, that the last half exceeded the average only 1.5°; so that the temperature is only a little above cool for the month. Much cloudy weather has been upon us. In the last half rain or snow has fallen on thirteen days; the first snow of the season, being on the 22nd to the 24th in the morning, was perhaps five inches. The snow melted some, but on the 24th it was all frozen fast to the earth in the fields and roads; on the 27th it was all melted. At the last of the month we had an inch of rain, and in the month the water fallen was 3.29 inches. The earth must now be saturated with water. The barometer has given near its mean height, 29.47 inches; its average being 29.53. We have had a fine autumn.

The meteors, not abundant here, gave a splendid shower from twelve to two A. M. of the 14th, in England and Scotland, and probably in Ireland. We may yet hear more of them; indeed it is known that the shower was a rich display.

The National and State Thanksgiving was observed on the 29th; prayer for the divine blessing on our country was earnest, and gratitude hearty, as is hoped, in a multitude of hearts. Ice has not yet appeared on the canals in this section, if anywhere, and navigation is not closed by man, nor by the heavenly Ruler of the seasons.

FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK.—The Annual Meeting of this Society will be held at the Court House in the city of Rochester, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 23d and 24th days of January.

Papers on various practical subjects will be read by those fully competent to instruct, and it is expected that this will be one of the most useful meetings ever held by this flourishing association.

JAMES VICK, Sec'y.

CORRECTION.—Our correspondent "S. W.," in the December number, credits the responsibility of "An Incredible Hay Crop," to *The New England Farmer*. It should have been credited to the St. Johnsbury, Vt., *Caledonian*, which first published the facts given by our correspondent. An "acre and a half," should read, "two acres and a half."

TUCKER'S Illustrated Annual Register for 1867. Pp 80 cents. For sale at this office.

## PRIZE ESSAYS.

We republish from the November number of 1866, the following list of Prize Essays to be sent in on or before the 1st of February, 1867. We offer a book or books of the value of \$1.50 for the best Essay received on each subject. They will be submitted to a competent committee, and those accepted published in future numbers of THE AMERICAN FARMER. Let us hear from our friends on all of these subjects;

1. On the cultivation of the Raspberry, with description of each variety.
2. On the cultivation of the Blackberry, with description of each variety.
3. On the cultivation of the Strawberry, with description of each variety.
4. On the cultivation of the Currant, with description of each variety.
5. On the cultivation of the Gooseberry, with description of each variety.
6. On the cultivation of the Cranberry on high and low lands.
7. On the cultivation of Sweet Potatoes.
8. On the raising of Tobacco.
9. On raising Cotton.
10. On raising Roots for Stock.
11. On raising Flax.
12. On the cultivation and management of a Hop Yard.
13. On the management of Spring Lambs.
14. On the different Breeds of Horses.
15. On Bee culture.
16. On the Abuse of Animals, morally and religiously considered, or otherwise.
17. On the best Pastures for Dairy Cows.
18. On Buildings suitable for a Large or Small Farm, with Plans.
19. On the best Wagon for Carting Manure, both solid and liquid, with Plan.
20. On the management and application of Barn Yard Manure.
21. On the best method of Improving Exhausted Land.
22. How to keep up the Fertility of the Soil.
23. On the management of permanent Grass Land.
24. On the advantages of Cutting Hay and Grain by Machinery.
25. On Deep and Shallow Plowing.
26. On Reclaiming and Management of Boggy or Swamp Land.
27. On the Different Breeds of Poultry.
28. On the cultivation and management of the Orange in the United States.
29. On the desirability of cultivating the Apricot, as a standard fruit.
30. On the best selection, habits, and treatment, of flower plants for parlor flower stands.
31. On the cause of "winter-kill" in Peach trees, and best remedy.
32. On the best plan for a Rustic Cottage, with plan and estimate—cost not to exceed \$1,000.
33. On the cultivation and comparative profit of White, Amber, and Red Wheat.
34. On the relative advantages or disadvantages of adding the Peach on Plum Stock.

35. On the most desirable Breed of Cattle suited to the extreme cold of Northern Winters, the consumption of the least amount and coarsest food, and the best producer of beef, being the principal requirements.

36. On the Modes, System, and Local Characteristics of Farming in each of the Different States—an essay from each State.

37. On the same in Canada.

38. On farming in the West.

## SPECIAL PRIZES.

## Five Dollars in Cash,

For the best Plan of Hog Pen, illustrated with full description.

## Ten Dollars in Cash,

For the best essay on Cooked food for Animals.

## Wanted.

FIFTY thousand practical farmers to take THE AMERICAN FARMER for 1867. Let every one of our readers try and send in a Club for the coming year. THE FARMER is so cheap that *everybody* can afford to take it, and the larger our circulation is, the better we can afford to make the paper. Form Clubs EARLY for 1867.

## A Liberal Offer.

We will send THE AMERICAN FARMER, and *The Annual Register of Rural Affairs*, in clubs, at the rate of *ninety* cents for the two; or in other words, a club of *ten* subscribers at *ninety* cents each, will get THE FARMER for 1867, and also a copy of this beautiful work of 144 pages, illustrated with 120 engravings. An extra copy of each will be sent to the getter up of the Club, our friends can see that we offer very liberal prizes to all who are willing to work for THE FARMER, and do good and get pay for it. Any of our readers can obtain a first-class prize with a very little exertion, at this time.

## Notice to Wool Growers.

NATIONAL WOOL GROWER'S ASSOCIATION, }  
Secretary's Office, Falmesville, O., Nov. 20, 1866. }

To the Officers of all Wool Growers' Associations in the United States:

GENTLEMEN:—Will you please forward to my office at the earliest moment possible, the names and post office address of the officers of your societies, with the number of members you have enrolled.

The importance of the measures now in progress, in which all wool growers have so deep an interest, make it very desirable that this association be able to communicate readily and promptly with you.

We desire to procure the address of officers, and number of members of district, county, and township associations, as well as those of State organizations; and the address of *every* Wool Growers' Association in the United States is desired.

It is earnestly hoped that *all* will respond *promptly*.  
By order of the Executive Committee.

W. F. GREER, Sec

SEE our premium list on last page

**Farm Produce.**

The following table will show the price of most of our leading agricultural products in New York for the last eight years :

	—1859.—	—1860.—	—1861.—	—1862.—	—1863.—	—1864.—	—1865.—	—1866.—
White Wheat... \$1.35 @ \$1.45	\$1.50 @ \$1.60	\$1.35 @ \$1.48	\$1.45 @ \$1.55	— @ \$1.75	\$2.30 @ \$2.45	\$2.40 @ \$2.75	\$2.40 @ \$3.10	
Red Wheat..... 1.10 @ 1.15	1.35 @ 1.45	1.28 @ 1.40	1.30 @ 1.45	— @ 1.40	1.90 @ 2.20	1.75 @ 2.35	2.25 @ 2.87	
Corn..... 1.00 @ 1.08	73 @ 86	60 @ 70	63 @ 69	99 @ 1.01	1.50 @ 1.55	74 @ 88	1.12 @ 1.30	
Rye..... 88 @ 90	80 @ 81	80 @ 85	70 @ 88	— @ —	1.40 @ 1.45	1.12 @ 1.30	1.35 @ 1.40	
Barley..... 78 @ 88	75 @ 89	70 @ 75	1.10 @ 1.35	1.45 @ 1.55	1.75 @ 2.00	1.10 @ 1.28	1.08 @ 1.18	
Oats..... 88 @ 44	38 @ 40	45 @ 48	56 @ 60	77 @ .83	84 @ 87	50 @ 58	65 @ 71	
Beans..... 90 @ 90	90 @ 1.15	1.35 @ 2.10	1.50 @ 2.30	2.10 @ 2.90	1.50 @ 2.55	1.50 @ 2.35	2.40 @ 2.60	
Peas..... 75 @ 80	— @ —	80 @ 90	— @ —	1.08 @ 1.10	1.50 @ 2.00	1.35 @ 1.80	1.75 @ 2.30	
Butter..... 15 @ 25	13 1/2 @ 31	11 @ 31	15 @ 24	25 @ 30	35 @ 50	30 @ 65	30 @ 50	
Cheese..... 8 @ 11	9 @ 11 1/2	6 @ 7 1/2	8 @ 11	13 @ 16 1/2	15 @ 23	15 @ 19	8 @ 16 1/2	
Potatoes..... 1.15 1/2 @ 1.75	— @ —	1.38 @ 2.00	1.40 @ 2.00	1.37 1/2 @ 2.50	2.35 @ 3.50	1.75 @ 3.00	1.75 @ 3.00	
Live Hogs..... 5 @ 6	— @ —	3 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2	5 @ 5 1/2	11 @ 18	13 @ 14	7 1/2 @ 8 1/2	
Wool..... 40 @ 62 1/2	40 @ 60	42 @ 50	60 @ 65	60 @ 65	80 @ 95	85 @ 75	45 @ 65	
Beef Cattle..... 6 1/2 @ 10	— @ —	5 @ 8 1/2	6 @ 8 1/2	5 @ 10	7 @ 13	9 @ 13 1/2	8 @ 4	

The above quotations are taken from the New York prices of November 20th, each year. The cereals are higher than last year, while other articles are lower.

**The American Farmer in Canada.**

As long as the premium on gold continues, we shall send THE AMERICAN FARMER to our Canadian subscribers at 60 cents each, in clubs of five or more, or single subscriptions at seventy-five cents.

If American money is sent, our terms will be one dollar a year, or seventy-five cents in clubs. We prepay the American postage on all papers sent to Canada or any of the British Provinces.

**To Our New Subscribers.**

We will send to any of our new subscribers who have received the last three months of 1866 free, all of the back numbers from January, 1866, for *sixty cents*. All should avail themselves of the full volume, so as to have a complete set from the commencement.

**Our Market Report.**

Is one of the leading features of THE FARMER, and commends itself to every reader of the paper. To get perfectly reliable news of the prices of produce, is of incalculable value to every farmer, and we are pleased to hear, as we have from a large number of subscribers, that it is giving very great satisfaction. We hope our friends will not forget to mention this fact about the markets when asking neighbors to subscribe. Tell them they will save more than the price of subscription by having regularly a correct report of the markets, which will keep them well posted in the price of every farm commodity.

**Commence at Once.**

THE great secret of getting subscribers, is to commence early. As soon as this number reaches our readers, let all agents and friends who are disposed to get up Clubs, commence at once among their neighbors to induce them to subscribe for "the practical farmer's own paper," for the year 1867. THE FARMER is so cheap that every farmer can afford to take it, and none ought to refuse when asked.

**How to Get a Sewing Machine, or Knitting Machine for Nothing.**

We have been asked by several, How they can get up a Club large enough to take one of these prizes? Now is the time to do this easily. If you can get only fifty or sixty subscribers in your neighborhood yourself, ask your relatives or friends who reside at a distance to help you. Let them get up a Club among their acquaintances, and send the names to you or send them on to us with the request that they be added to your list. In this way you can divide up the number required into four or more parts, and with little trouble get the requisite number. All we desire to know is that they are obtained through your influence, and that they are to be added to your Club, so that you may get the prize desired.

See article "Prize Essays," on another page.

**THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—Mr. X. A. Willard, of *The Utica Herald*, has consented to deliver an address on the Agriculture of Europe, at the Annual Meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society, which will be held at Albany, Wednesday, February 13, 1867. Mr. W. has recently returned from an extensive tour in Europe, and his address cannot fail to be of great value to all interested in agriculture.

**WINTER SPORTS.**—Our artist and engraver has produced a fine illustration on page 24, taken from a beautiful colored lithographic print, by Messrs. Currier & Ives, of New York. It embraces a view of trout fishing on Chateaugay Lake, and our artist has added a side view of some boys enjoying the healthful exercise of skating, while some neighbors in the distance are taking the opportunity to enjoy an exciting sleigh ride.

### THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, December 13, 1866.

**FLOUR**—White wheat, \$16.25@16.75. Red, \$14.25@14.75.  
**GRAIN**—White wheat, 290@310c. Red, 260@270c. Corn, 105c.  
 @110c. Barley, nothing doing. Oats, 50c. Rye, 105@110c.  
**HOPS**—50@55c.  
**WOOL**—40@45c.  
**SHEEP SKINS**—50c@1.25.  
**PROVISIONS**—Dressed hogs, 8½@9½c. Mess pork, \$22.50.  
 Hams, 14@15c. Lard, 12@14c. Butter, 28@30c. Eggs, 8½c.  
 Cheese, 15@18c. Potatoes, 50@62c. Apples, per barrel, \$3.50@  
 \$4.50. Hay, \$14@20.

### New York Markets.

REPORTED FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS TODD, OF  
 THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, December 13.

**BEEVES**—The prices for beef are much firmer, at the present time, than they were two weeks ago. The weather is cold, but pleasant, which is always much in favor of a good market for producers; while warm weather and stormy weather always have a tendency to depress prices at the cattle yards.

Two weeks ago, the very best extra beefs would not sell for more than 16c ¢ ¢ ¢, net weight. Yesterday and to-day sales were moderately quick, and prices quite firm, at 17c, and a small number at 17½c ¢ ¢ ¢, net weight. What are called the "tops," or prime cattle, sold for 16c@16½c ¢ ¢ ¢. Common to fair butcher's cattle, 14c@15c. Thin bullocks, old oxen half fattened, and stags were sold for about 9c@10c ¢ ¢ ¢, net weight.

The number of cattle received at all the yards, including those taken directly to butchers, amounts to 5,614, for the weekly supply for the past week. The number for the previous week is 4,956. The week before that, the number was 6,041. There is not much probability that prices of beef will go any lower than these figures this winter. After the holidays have passed, when there will be less poultry in market, the demand for beef and mutton will doubtless increase, when the choicest beefs will command higher prices than the present quotations.

The manner of selling beef cattle in the New York markets is, to weigh the animals, and deduct thirty-five or forty pounds per hundred pounds of the live weight. The remainder represents the net weight of the animals. No account is made of the hides and rough tallow.

**MILCH COWS**—There is but little done at the markets where milch cows are sold. Only 81 were received for the weekly supply. The week previous the number was only 43. The demand is quite limited. Sales are slow and prices lower than in the surrounding country. Most of the cows offered for sale are old, very

poor and inferior milkers. Cows the past week have been sold for \$40 ¢ ¢ ¢ head and some as high as \$150 ¢ ¢ ¢ head. Fair looking cows will bring about \$70@90 ¢ ¢ ¢ head.

**VEAL CALVES**—The number of calves received at all the markets for the weekly supply is 968. For the previous week the number was only 794. Fat calves are in active demand at 12c@18c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, live, gross weight. Most of the calves received were quite too poor for slaughtering, and were sold for what they would bring. In some instances, small lots of calves have been disposed of at 8c@10c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, live, gross weight. Some times they are sold by the head, when they bring from \$6 to \$18 each, according to size. "Bobs"—young calves from one to five days old—are offered occasionally, which sell for \$2 to \$4 ¢ ¢ ¢ head.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS**—The receipts of sheep during the past week were not so large, by several thousands, as they were the two previous weeks. The number for the past week is 23,931. At the present time prices for sheep and lambs are firm and tending upwards. Fair to choice lots are now selling for 6c@7c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, live, gross weight. A few extras were sold for 7½c@8c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, live, gross weight. Most of the droves are sold at about 6c@6½c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢. Many lots of thin and poor sheep do not sell for more than 4c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight. Lambs are usually sold by live weight; and the prices range at present from 6c@7c@8½c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight. Very few, however, sell as high as 8½c. No doubt there will be a bountiful supply of extras next week, which will sell much higher than these figures.

**SWINE**—The supply for the past few days has exceeded the requirements of the city markets; consequently sales are slow, and prices easy and tending downwards. The best lots are now selling for 7½c@8½c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, live, gross weight. Buyers purchase sparingly, as they affirm that the state of the market will not warrant them in paying over 7½c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight.

The number received for the weekly supply is 23,417, which is unusually heavy for one week. Reports from the West say that there never was a larger number of swine being fattened, than at the present time. This being the case, there is not much probability that the prices of swine will advance but little, if any, beyond the present rates.

**FLOUR AND MEAL**—Prices for flour and meal have fluctuated wonderfully during a few weeks past. Yesterday a brisk demand, partly speculative, enabled holders of State and Western Flour to advance prices full 20c@25c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢, and on the basis of the improved rates an unusually liberal business was transacted, the market closing quite strong and buoyant for all desirable grades. Sales have been 32,700 bbls, including very poor to choice Superfine State and Western at \$7.65@9.75; common to fair Extra State, fresh inspection, at \$10@10.70; fair to choice do. do. at \$10.75@11.50; round-hoop Extra Ohio, poor to good shipping brands, at \$10.85@11.50 ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢. We now quote: Superfine State and Western, \$7.65@9.75; Extra State, \$10@11.50; Extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c. \$8.50@14.50; Extra Ohio, round-hoop shipping brands, \$10.85@11.50; Extra Ohio, trade and family brands, \$11.55@15; Extra Genesee, \$11.55@15; Common to choice Extra Missouri, \$12.50@16.25. Included in the sales were 3,500 bbls. Extra State for forward delivery at \$10.40@10.50 ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢. A better inquiry prevails for Southern Flour, prices of which have improved on a scantily supplied market. Sales 600 bbls in lots, at \$10.65@12.70 for poor to good, and \$12.75@16.25 for good to very choice extra brands ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢. Canadian Flour is in demand: 500 bbls. Extra sold at \$12.60@14.75 ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢. Rye Flour is in better request, including Superfine at \$5.75@7.25 ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢; sales 850 bbls. Corn Meal is in more demand at \$5@5.10 for Western, \$5.10@5.25 for Jersey, and \$5.20@5.25 for Brandywine, ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢; sales 970 bbls. Buckwheat Flour is in moderate demand at \$3@3.50 ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ 100 lbs.

**GRAIN**—An excellent demand prevails for desirable lots of Wheat, which have been sparingly offered, and which have been quoted to-day 2c@3c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ bush, higher on Spring and 8c@5c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ bush, on Winter, the market closing buoyantly. Sales 73,500 bushels, including poor White Canada at \$2.80; good Red Canada at \$2.80; inferior No. 3 to Extra No. 2 Chicago Spring and Milwaukee Club at \$2@2.32, chiefly at \$2.10@2.25, for the same grade of Wheat as that which was sold yesterday for \$2.18@2.28; White Genesee at \$3; very handsome Amber State at \$3, and White California at \$3.85 ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ bush. Corn has been more sought after by speculative buyers, and has advanced fully 2c. bush. The inquiry has been made mainly for stored Corn, wanted by speculative buyers, though toward the close the export demand for Corn afloat revived a little. To-day the highest reported sale of mixed was fully 8c a bushel above the lowest quotation of the day. Sales 111,000 bushel at \$1.09@1.12 for Mixed Western, in store and afloat, closing buoyantly at \$1.12 for prime, in store; \$1.11½@1.12½ for old Yellow Western; and \$1@1.10 for new Yellow and White Jersey and Southern, ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ bush. Rye has been in fair request and rather firmer; sales 11,800 bushels at \$1.30 for choice State, \$1.18 for Western. All other than strictly choice lots of Barley are slow of sale on the basis of old prices, though some export inquiry existed for inferior and common qualities, in which a fair business could have been transacted at a slight concession from late figures. Prime parcels were comparatively scarce and held with firmness, having been in most request for the home trade. Sales have been reported at \$7,000 bushels at \$1.18 for Canada West, free; 99c for do. in bond; \$1.18 for State; and 85c for Western ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ bush. A sale of Canada West, free, was reported as high as \$1.26 ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ bush. Oats have been in brisk request, and on State an advance of fully 1c ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ bush has been established.



We quote Detroit at 68c; Chicago at 66c@65c; Milwaukee and Cleveland at 65c@66c; and State at 70c bush; sales 100,000 bushels.

**BUTTER.**—The butter market is abundantly supplied, and large quantities consist of very poor, streaked and strong butter, which has to be sold very low. It cannot be expected that the prices for butter will improve before February, if they do then. The following figures represent the top of the market:

Butter, Orange and Chenango County Dairies—firkins, good to extra $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	40	@72
Butter, Orange and Chenango County Dairies—half-firkins, good to extra $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	43	@50
New York State Dairies—firkins, good to extra $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	35	@40
New York State Dairies—firkins, fair to good $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	36	@35
New York State Dairies—half-firkins tubs, good to extra $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	42	@45
New York State Dairies—fresh firkins, extra $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	39	@42
New York State Dairies—ordinary qualities $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	30	@35
New York State Dairies—Welsh tubs, good to extra $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	36	@33
New York State Dairies—Welsh tubs, fair to good $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	34	@35
North Pennsylvania Dairies—firkins, fair to good $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	34	@35
North Pennsylvania Dairies—firkins, ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	30	@32

**CHEESE.**—Prices for cheese remain unchanged at the following rates:

Factory Dairies, 1st quality State, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	16	@17
Factory Dairies, 2nd quality, State, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	16	@16
Factory Dairies, Western, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	15	@16
Farm Dairies, 1st quality State, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	15	@16
Farm Dairies, 2nd quality State, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	14	@15
Farm Dairies, Western, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	13	@15
Cheddar Cheese, Western and State, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	8	@14

**POULTRY.**—The poultry market is completely glutted and yet prices are high and firm, with a brisk trade. A few days after my last report was made for THE AMERICAN FARMER, turkeys were retailing with firm prices at 25c@30c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. The next day, as the weather moderated, prices dropped to 16c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. The poultry market depends almost entirely on the state of the weather. So long as the surface of the ground remains frozen the prices of poultry are tolerably well advanced. But when the weather begins to grow warmer prices decline. The price for good turkeys is, by the quality, 25c@34c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Chickens, 21c@25c. Geese, 18c@20c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Ducks, 30c@32c.

**COAL.**—There has been a great break down in the coal market. The best quality of stove and grate coal has been selling for \$5.75 @ \$4.00. Nut coal \$3.50 and in some instances, even lower than these rates. Several coal companies are now retailing at their yards at these rates, and are selling choice brands of flour lower than I have quoted, for the express purpose of breaking down monopolies.

#### SUNDRIES.

The following figures will show something of the retail trade in New York and Brooklyn. These articles are much cheaper at wholesale:

Beans, Lima, $\frac{1}{2}$ quart	40c	@ 50
Beans, new, $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch	40c	@ 6
Cabbages, new, each	9c	@ 12
Cabbages, red, each	18c	@ 25
Carrots, new, $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen	20c	@ 25
Cauliflowers, each	10c	@ 40
Celery, $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch	20c	@ 20
Garlic, $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch	20c	@ 25
Lettuce, $\frac{1}{2}$ head	5c	@ 10
Onions, $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch	8c	@ 10
Onions, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck	60c	@ 75
Onions, $\frac{1}{2}$ quart	8c	@ 10
Oyster Plant, $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch	10c	@ 12
Carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen	20c	@ 25
Carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch	5c	@ 8
Carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck	2.75c	@ 3.50
Carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ quart	45c	@ 60
Carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck	62c	@ 75
Pumpkins, each	10c	@ 40
Kidney, $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch	30c	@ 5
Sage and Thyme, $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch	20c	@ 4
Squash, each	15c	@ 35
Squash, $\frac{1}{2}$ half-peck	20c	@ 25
Squash, new, $\frac{1}{2}$ half-peck	12c	@ 20
Water Cresses, $\frac{1}{2}$ quart	—	@ 10

#### A Word about Market Reports.

No doubt many persons will say that my figures do not correspond with the reports of reliable New York papers. I know that. Allow me to state how those reports, in most instances, are got up. There is not another reporter in the city who prepares reports as I do. The proprietors of most newspapers employ some dealer in wool, for example, to report the market prices of that commodity. A butter dealer will report the prices

of butter and cheese. And so with other commodities; and each man will report the prices to favor his own pecuniary interest. That is the way commission merchants sometimes make their money. They control the market. If they desire to have prices advanced, they will "bull up" the prices in their reports, even when there is an evident tendency downwards. On the contrary, if it appears to be for their pecuniary interest to have the prices lower, they will "bull them" down in their quotations. I will give an example: Last season, a commission merchant reported the prices of butter and cheese for a certain reliable paper here; and the price of butter kept advancing while his reports continued to "bull down" the prices; and in his remarks he affirmed that "butter was all going to grease." He made thousands of dollars by it. How? Producers forwarded their butter to him to be sold on commission. He sold it for several cents per pound more than the highest market prices, and then deducted his commission, at the prices which he had quoted, retaining whatever price he saw fit. Of course, people who do not understand the tricks of the trade, would feel that they had been lucky to get the top market price, when really they did not receive as much by several cents per pound as their butter sold for.

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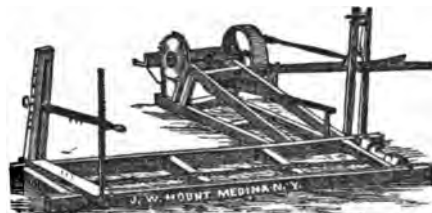
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VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1867.

No 2.



'Tis drear mid winter.

All nature sleeps beneath a veil of snow,  
And with the slow returning sun, whose rays,  
Direct upon her face, shall wake to life  
And beauty, all her thousand hidden charms.  
A brooding silence reigns o'er fields and woods  
Unbroken, save when muffled stroke of ax,  
Or woodman's voice, re-echoes through the waste.  
The farm yard inmates seek the sheltered spots  
And sunny nooks to doze away the day.  
The groaning sleds, high piled with woodland spoils,  
Or farm crops, destined for the distant mart,  
Go slowly creaking o'er the drifted roads,  
Or else the swift drawn cutter dashes by  
With jingling bells and merry precious freight.  
So February slowly wearing on  
Shall usher in his fitful brother March.

Belfast, Me.

G. R. R.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

**STOCK.**—How grateful they will feel if turned out every sunny day! They will bask and frolic in the sunshine, and almost "laugh and grow fat." As the days begin to lengthen out, and the sun to shed its rays over nature, let them be turned out every day, if possible. See to it that they are well sheltered when the days are cold and stormy, and do not overlook the importance of giving them fresh water. A Scotch farmer found by measurement, that his cattle drank over *twenty-five pounds* of water each day. How many cows go without any at all? We trust not many. Let them be properly taken care of this month, and well fed, that they may be stronger, fatter, and heavier this spring than when put in the barn in the fall.

**MILKING.**—No person should be allowed to talk in the barn while the cows are being milked. The same person should always do the milking. It ought to be done steadily and fast, and strip thoroughly. The quieter cows are kept, and the less they have to excite them, the more milk they will give

**POULTRY.**—Where fowls are properly taken care of, some of them will want to sit this month. Select eggs of the best birds for this purpose, and if in a dry, warm quarter, they will do well, but will require attention. Hens which have not yet commenced laying, should be fed a little animal food, scraps of any kind, which will stimulate them to lay. Warm food such as boiled potatoes or corn meal, is also a great help, and should be given them every few days. Pepper may be added with advantage. Early chickens always command the best price in market, and only require a little extra care at this season to have a good supply ready by the middle of June or July. If kept for stock, they will pay for the little extra care given now, by commencing to lay the first of August or September, and will continue to do so until winter sets in. We have had spring chickens that commenced early in the fall and laid all winter,

**PREPARATION**—should be made for spring work. Let nothing be delayed that can be done this month. Spring is a busy time at best, and will come on some unprepared. A day gained now will be of incalculable value when the busy work of spring commences in earnest.

**FENCE RAILS**—should be in readiness to repair broken down fences. Any fine day may be profitably employed in fixing up those that require attention.

**GATES**—which are off their hinges should be fixed up, and put in proper trim.

**TREES AND PLANTS.**—Now is the time to make arrangements to purchase what trees, shrubs, or vines are wanted this spring. None should be obtained but the very best, and those well rooted and healthy. No inferior or second class article ought to be tolerated, as it will only end in disappointment and disgust.

**DITCHING**—may be commenced on some farms as soon as a thaw sets in. Opportunities for out-door work frequently occur during this month that should be taken advantage of, and any work that can be well done, ought to be attended to. All water furrows should be examined, and kept clean and

open, so that the water may have free course to run off.

**GRAPE VINES**—that were not trimmed in the fall, should be attended to this month, as it is injurious to vines to trim them after the 1st of March.

**MANURE**—should be drawn out and put in heaps in the fields ready to spread on the land. Let it be well mixed, horse, cow, and pig manure altogether, not left to lie separate about the yard, but thoroughly mixed up, and then carted to the field.

**A WORN OUT FARM**—May be made rich by thorough culture, and by making all the manure possible, and putting it on the land. Let this be our rule and guide for 1867, and we shall soon reap the benefit by larger crops and a cleaner soil.

**SEEDS**—for planting should be ordered early. Make out a list of what you want, and send it to a reliable seedsman, and get the best. By sending to Mr. James Vick, of this city, or Messrs. Thorburn & Co., of New York, you can get any variety, and in any quantity you may desire, and know that you will get what is reliable and to be depended on. They are men of experience in the business, and are well known for their honorable dealings with their customers.

**TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS**—for spring work should be looked after and got ready. Now is the time to attend to this work. See that they are all in good repair, oil those requiring it, mend any that are broken, see that the nuts are all on, sharpen up the old hoes and scythes, and purchase any that will be wanted. Get the best, and take good care of them, and you will be amply repaid for the little extra expense.

**FIREWOOD**.—A large stock should be laid in this month for summer use. See to it that plenty is cut fine for kindling, and the good housewife will thank you.

**BUILDINGS**.—Arrangements should be made, and designs drawn for any alterations that may be desired, or new ones to be built. Stone for building foundation and cellars, should now be drawn, and lumber may be contracted for and drawn, as opportunity occurs.

**LAMBS**.—Watch young lambs constantly. When they come in early, they should be well protected. We saw some early lambs on the 8th of January, that were doing well running under a large barn with a small opening to the south, which afforded them good warm shelter. English shepherds are in the habit of going over the flock every two hours. This may be unnecessary, but to be successful the ewes should be watched closely, and any assistance rendered that may be required. Strangers should seldom be admitted to the sheepfold as any one but the regular attendant, will be sure to frighten them unless they are very tame.

**YOUNG STOCK**—should be kept comfortable and warm, and constantly growing. Let them have a good supply of water, regular feed, and frequently carded. Let them be turned out in the yards in fine weather for exercise. Let the young colts be fondled and broken in as soon as possible after the second winter, but not to work till about four years old. They will make more powerful and enduring animals if not worked till after the fifth year.

**READING AND STUDY**—Should be continued these long evenings. No farmer should be without a choice collection of the best works on agriculture and horticulture, for reference. They are indispensable, and should be consulted on all doubtful subjects, and by careful reading of such works many useful hints and suggestions will be stored up in the mind for a future day, that will be found invaluable. And lastly, introduce **THE AMERICAN FARMER** to your friends and neighbors. If there is no club formed at your post office, act as agent, and take some of the liberal premiums offered on another page of this number.

### SHOULD FARMERS WORK?

WE think we detect a tendency in much of the agricultural literature of the day, to dissuade farmers from performing *manual* labor. Such ideas are probably advanced by those whose knowledge of farming is entirely theoretical; for we are quite certain that no experienced, practical farmer, would for a moment tolerate the idea. Such writers hold that the true province of the farmer is to lay plans, direct the labors of his employees, do the buying and selling for the farm, and a *little outside speculation, be general overseer, and gentleman farmer*. Manual labor is only proper for the Irishman, or German, or more ignorant and degraded Yankee "white trash"—that the landowner, the capitalist, the well-informed farmer, can better employ his energies, than in engaging in the same labor as his ignorant employee!

Now, we protest against this doctrine as opposed to the best interests of the agriculturist. The true province of the farmer is to labor with his head, to labor with his hands, to labor with his heart. The only way to elevate the calling of the farmer, in the eyes of the world, is to sustain the principle that labor is honorable, is noble, is worthy of a talented, educated man. That it is just as honorable for the farmer to till his own soil, to plow, plant, sow, hoe, mow, pitch hay, husk corn, dig potatoes, or do any other work needed on his farm—as it is for the merchant to stand behind his counter and sell dry goods, groceries, or hardware; or those of any other vocation to work at their calling.

The diffusion of the idea that farmers should not work, would do more than anything else to discourage young men from becoming farmers, for but few

of them could begin with sufficient capital to enable them to hire all their labor, and such could not make their capital invested in land, return ordinary interest without laboring themselves. On the other hand, we would not have the farmer forget his office of superintendent, in his devotion to labor. He cannot go every day into the field, and labor from morning to night, with his employees, without neglecting the best interests of the farm. He generally has laborers in different parts of the farm—some working with the team, others without; and he ought to see that all are doing their work well. He should occasionally look over the stock, and see that all are in good condition. He should look over the growing crops, to see if they need attention. He should attend at the proper time to marketing his produce, and making needful purchases; but, at the same time he should spend the greater portion of his time working with his laborers in the field. In no other way can he be certain that they are earning their wages. It is impossible for the most experienced farmer to decide whether his laborers are doing a fair day's work at any kind of labor, without working with them, and learning what obstacles are to be overcome. For illustration: it is considered about a fair day's work to hoe an acre of corn, but if the soil be light and mellow, free from grass, weeds, or stones, it would be easier to hoe two acres than a quarter of an acre, where the stones are thick, the ground hard, and every hill required to be weeded by hand. And so, in most of the labors of the farm, no general standard of a day's work can be established. The farmer can only know that his laborers are doing him justice, by working with them.

Again, worthy employees would prefer to have their employer work with them, for then he is satisfied that they are doing well, can understand their labors, and will not be inclined to find fault.

Young farmers! commence business with a determination to work—in person; not by proxy, and we predict that you will love your calling better, be more successful in it, and contribute more to elevate the position of the American farmer, than by playing gentleman farmer. On the other hand, farmers should labor with their mind as well as with their hands. They should look ahead, and lay their plans for years to come, with a view to a proper rotation of crops, and a general improvement of the farm; should closely observe results, and build up theories therefrom, and they will soon become convinced that farming is not all *drudgery*, exhausting the body, and stupefying the mind; but that the intelligent, progressive farmer can find quite as much mental exercise in the legitimate labors of his vocation, as those engaged in mercantile or manufacturing pursuits.

### FARM TALKS—No. 8.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT,  
BELFAST, MAINE.

PASSING by one of our neighbors a sunny afternoon lately, we stopped a half hour to see him exhibit his trained steers, and "put them through" various evolutions. Uncle John, as he is familiarly called, is well known as an ox fancier, and a raiser of some of the finest as well as the best trained cattle in this part of the State.

"Training 'em, uncle John?"

"A little, jest so they won't forget."

"Do they forget easily?"

"Oh, no; but then you know there's nothing like keeping a 'critter' in trainin', and then you can depend upon 'em."

"Exactly. How old are those steers, and how much do they girt?"

"Four year' old, and girt seven feet six."

"Herefords ain't they?"

"Yes, grades; and I call 'em matched up pretty fair."

Here uncle John put them through to show their discipline. They were in the yard unyoked. At the word, they stood square, shoulder to shoulder, as if yoked; then obeyed the word and motion of the goad-stick. The off steer walked round his mate and stood on the near side, then the other did the same, and either of them works equally well on the near or off side. They hold up the foot at the word, and backed, geed, and hawed, singly or doubly as required, and principally by a motion of the stick: in a word performed all the requirements of their driver.

"You don't speak very loud to them?"

"No, if there's anything an ox hates, it's to be hollered at, or pounded. They won't mind half so well as though you work 'quiet like' and easy. And its jest so with any kind of an animal, 'cording to my experience."

No doubt uncle John is correct, and people are beginning to find out that kindness goes a great way in winning the good graces and favor of the brute creation as well as those animals of the nobler order. He pets his cattle, and you may be sure he takes the best care of them. They are well fed, housed, and cared for generally, and he takes particular care to have them governed well. His fine steers are kept as clean and nice as the most costly horses. And further and better than all, it pays uncle John financially. All his labor and pains not only produces the very best specimens of steers and oxen to be found, but he sells them when they have attained their growth, for a big sum, four hundred dollars being a minimum price.



### IRON AS A MANURE.

MEASRS. EDS.:—In your May number for 1866, you had an interesting article on "Iron as an Invigorator," and then after a while, somebody calling himself, "Chemicus," says that it is all very true, but that there is nothing *new* in it, just as if it was anything the worse for that! But, it is said that an ounce of experience is worth a pound of theory, so let me give you my experience.

I have always known that iron was good for the soil. I have *seen* its good effects. But my wife is a believer in homeopathy, and she says that instead of giving the large doses which you speak of—"a lot of horse shoe filings to a pear tree"—the merest dusting is enough. "Indeed," said she, "my doctor tells me that if you were to rub a sanded cloth upon a piece of old iron, the cloth would be enough for a dozen pear trees." I don't know just how much of this to believe. I know her practice with our children is successful. She keeps doctoring them all the time, giving them pills every now and then, (some people say they are nothing but sugar, however, and that molasses candy would be quite as good,) and a healthier lot of little folks cannot be found. So I am inclined to believe in her doctrine. At any rate I adopted it in regard to my garden. I went down town and bought some iron, and to save much rubbing I procured it in long slender rods. These I stuck into the ground everywhere, and had *ironized* a good deal of my ground, when a wiseacre came along and told me that protoxide of iron, (what, in the name of common sense, is that, Messrs. Editors?) is a poison to plants, but that if you expose it to the air, the air kills the poison, and makes it *good* for plants.

This was a new idea. I had rubbed my soil with iron, and now to get rid of this chemical stuff he told me about, I must expose it to the air. Well, at it I went. I turned the soil over, and broke it up fine, and I tell you that wherever the iron touched that soil, and it was exposed to the air, I got splendid crops. My pear trees looked as if they had had a bushel of old iron about their roots; my grape vines have run wild; my potatoes—Oh! such a crop of nice mealy fellows; peas, why we reveled in them all summer, except when strawberries were so plenty that the children ate so many that they could not take any dinner. And I believe that it was all on account of that iron.

I see that whenever anybody invents anything new, everybody wants to know all about it. Now, I don't want to be pestered with letters explaining my mode of applying iron, so will say that the iron is most conveniently used when in the form of four or five thin steel rods, about twelve inches long, attached to a steel cross-bar, and furnished with a wooden handle attached to the middle of the

bar. I presume that as soon as the demand gets to be sufficient, most of our hardware stores will keep on hand pieces of iron of this shape. Just push them into the ground by setting your foot on the cross-bar, and then pull the handle backwards so as to turn up the ground, and remember that the closer together the place where you stick in the iron, the more iron you will get into your soil, and the better your crops will be. This is my experience, but my wife says that this part is against homeopathy. So now you need have no hesitation in recommending iron as an invigorator for plants on the strength of the experience of

SITTICUS.

### USES OF SNOW.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "VICTOR."

MANY are the uses of snow, some of them a necessity as arbitrary as flour for food; indeed, in many instances snow is the *alma mater*, almost the origin of food, as in the great northern wheat regions of America and Europe. Over whole territories the white snow blanket protects and keeps warm through the long winters, fields of wheat that wanting such a shield, would perish at the cold, murderous hands of Artic Jack. Far up above the clouds, along the Andean line, hundreds of towering peaks clad everlastingly in winter costume, pour down streams of snow water, that irrigate and fertilize slopes, plains and valleys of the nether world, making them to supply in tropical profusion fruits and flowers, herds and grain for human necessity and luxury, where but for the snow-gift no verdure would clothe the landscape, not a plant grow, no animal exist, and desolation as dreary as that of the Saharian desert would reign supreme.

In Canada, and all New England, with the first falling of snow begins the joyous, jolly, winter carnival—balls, parties, sleigh rides, *hilarateur*, hurrah! What would our Yankee young folks and Canadian cousins, do and be through a long, cheerless, snowless winter? All bare ground—bah! Mopes, misanthropes—dull as dead beer. That's what they would be.

Away up in the pine and spruce forests of Maine, New Brunswick, and Eastern Canada, lumbermen look upon snow as a great institution, next to woman, Heaven's best gift to man. And in being thankful for the snow gift, they are sensible. But for it, the transportation of millions of logs, and the immense pine trunks that make the masts of clipper Indiamen, to the frost-bound streams, that in the spring, swollen by melted snow, form the highways by which they ride down hill to mills and markets, but for the winter snows, all this moving of masts and logs, and making lumber and money, would be next door to an impossibility.

But for the snow-supplied streams, rolling down from the Rocky Mountain range, contributing to the currents of our Western Rivers late in the season, the great Father of Waters himself, would run so low, that through five months of every year, the navigation of more than half its length would be shut up to the river palaces that now paddle proudly and perpetually over its thousands of miles of liquid highway.

In all east, and east-down-east regions, the acme of juvenile enjoyment, is the "coasting" carnival inaugurated by the first permanent fall of snow. Well, let 'em slide. Sensible; the eastern girls and boys are in their coasting idolatry. There is health, vigor, muscle, manhood, and better womanhood, too, in all the outdoor exercise, begotten of snow sliding.

The white, winter blanket, covers comfortably and keeps warm through the long rigorous winter, myriads of plants and flowers that in spring time burst forth in beauty and blooming splendor, making the season more magnificent, and men and women far better Christians by nature's teaching.

The Laplander and Northern Russian, drawn by their fleet reindeer, flash far over vast stretches, bridged securely by frozen snow, that but for the kindly covering would remain sloughs, bogs, and impassable morasses, imprisoning millions of men and women in cheerless solitude, depriving them of the pleasure of going abroad.

I have vividly in mind personal obligations I am myself under to protecting snow. With the gifted Hoffman as my only companion, equipped as hunters, wandering in winter time through the wild, wilderness regions of Oswegatchie, often at night-fall, wearied with our day's tramp, and bivouac or camp fire an impossibility, we drew our blankets close about our persons, plunged head foremost into the snow, and burrowing like badgers, dug out of sight, sleeping there under the snow as comfortably and cosily as we could have done in the best made bed in Christendom.

There are only a few of the many blessings the snow confers upon the animate world. But I have no time now for more. There is a snow squall out doors. I am going out to revel in the snow.

COVERING the edge of a manger with tin or sheet iron will prove an effectual remedy to the practice indulged in by many horses, of biting the crib or manger.

A CORRESPONDENT of *The Country Gentleman* insists that the most benefit is derived from an agricultural paper, by those who read it for a series of years, and preserve the numbers for reference.

## NOTES FOR THE MONTH, BY "S. W."

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

### CARROT CULTURE VERSUS BEET CULTURE FOR A FORAGE CROP.

After many attempts at growing carrots, I formed the opinion that it was a puttering business compared to beet growing, the more especially as beets are so profitably transplanted to ground made vacant by peas and other early crops in the garden. But experiment has at length disabused me in the premises. It is true, beets are a profitable forage crop for the foregoing reason, and that they will grow well on a stiff soil if well manured, while carrots to be easily tended and profitably grown, must have a very deep, rich and mellow soil. This season I planted a bed of carrots on a clay soil that had been made very black and pulverulent, by yearly manuring and fall trenching. It was planted with sweet corn last year, to kill the weeds brought in by manure, and trenched last fall without manure. I sowed the seed in drills twelve inches apart, applying a little compost to the drills, hoed the plants as soon as they appeared, thinning them at the second hoeing from three to five inches apart. The tops covered the ground after the third hoeing, and in early September they formed such a compact mass that I pulled several baskets full to let in sun and air. In October they formed a mass of roots, touching each other in the row; some were three inches in diameter, and all had to be started in the mellow soil before they could be pulled. The carrot tops are worth at least three times as much as watery beet tops; if I should say what the yield was per square rod, it would hardly be believed; sufficient to say, that a bushel basket was filled without being moved by the carrots within arm's length of it; they are stored on a flag stone cellar floor to be chopped and fed to a cow, tops and all.

I have ridged a plot of drab clay loam this fall, 70 feet by 20, working in coarse stall manure to be planted to sweet corn in the spring; but it will take two or three such applications, ridging and hoed crops to make the plot friable enough for a carrot crop. Swamp muck and coarse stall manure are the true ameliorators of clay loams. Sand only makes a calcareous clay into a mortar, and no wonder, as seven bushels of beach sand is made into a perfect mortar by a single bushel of unslacked lime. The advantage gained by ridging up heavy soils late in the autumn, is two-fold; it enables the frost to make the clay as pulverulent as burned clay, and it also promotes the chemical reactions of the manurial ingredients in the soil by letting in atmospheric air. S. W. Johnson says, "the atmosphere, the soil, and the manure heap, are not mere magazines of in-

ert matter, but are the theatres of perpetual chemical changes;" and without these changes no plant can mature.

#### KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS.

John Johnstone, of Fayette, cultivates this blue grass with timothy for hay. He says it is slow from the seeding; but after cutting the timothy five seasons it was about half blue grass, and he never had better hay. He also says that instead of drying up in June, like June, or spear grass, it keeps green even longer than timothy.

Wood, in his botany, calls spear (June) grass, *poa pratensis*, ripening in May and June, and blue grass, *poa compressa*, ripening in June and July.

#### AN INCREASED TARIFF ON EUROPEAN MANUFACTURES.

Many people argue that nothing can abate the present fashion and extravagance of us Americans, but an increased tariff on importations. The present monstrous revenue from custom house duties shows that the disease is incurable so long as the money can be had to buy with. The failure of the cotton and grain crops at the South this season, will greatly depress the trade of the North, and consequently reduce its means of fashionable indulgence by many millions of dollars, and the effect on the poor exhausted South, is to reduce her people to very homespun living for a year or two at least. Hence we may fairly set it down, that the present tariff is all it will bear for revenue, and the failure of the cotton crop added to the inflated prices of northern productions, will do more to prevent luxurious importations from Europe the coming season, than any increase of tariff Congress could enact and enforce.

#### OUR INFLATED CURRENCY.

The evils incidental to our depreciated currency, are evidently increasing upon us, and must continue to increase, until they are too demoralizing and grievous to be borne, unless relief begins by an immediate approximation to a reduced and sound currency. The passage of a law by Congress "to sell the treasury gold monthly," may be a movement in the right direction, if the gold is advertised and sold at auction; as it will then retire from circulation the same amount of legal tenders; but if privately sold to the "bulls" and "bears" of Wall street, the effect will be to grind the people between the upper and nether mill stone.

It is very feelingly urged by those who have thriven by war and inflation, and now fear to lose by an approximation to a sound currency, that there is no more currency now in circulation than the wants of business demand, and that the retirement of any part of it would paralyze trade. This is a good argument in favor of increasing the value of

the currency so as to make the less answer the same purpose. By retiring a part, the value of the remainder is increased, so that it will in the consequent reduction of prices, perform the same office and more legitimately.

The reduction of the currency and prices will doubtless be prejudicial to those who have large debts to pay, or large stocks of goods to sell; but as it must come to this at last, the sooner the currency is reduced and increased in value, the better for the whole country. One of the most disastrous effects of the depreciated currency, and consequent high prices of materials and labor, aggravated by heavy taxation, is the present extreme prostration of our once great shipping interest. Fifty-five foreign ships and steamers of the largest class, have arrived at New York within a month, with 17,280 emigrants, and not one American emigrant passenger ship arrived in the same time. I well remember the time when American ships did all our carrying trade, and our ship yards turned out vessels for the foreign merchant; but now a debased currency and consequent high prices of material and labor, have enabled all the maritime nations of Europe to build, man, and sail their vessels so much cheaper that they not only compete with us, in the carrying trade, but they are fast driving us from the ocean, as a protective tariff on imports only increases prices at home. It is suicidal for relief in the premises, although some who ought to know better, pronounce it the true panacea.

#### ECONOMIZING FODDER.

In the January FARMER, "W. H. W." gives a capital article under this heading. The agricultural chemists call straw a fat former, because it is nearly all carbon. But carbon to be fat forming must be more soluble than it is in crude straw; hence it is why finely cut straw and hay also, is so much more nutritious than the long article; and there is no doubt but that scalding or steaming the cut straw and then treating it with a very little meal, makes its carbon much more available as food, to say nothing of the office of straw in the stomach to support the warmth and respiration of the animal? Prof. Mapes was of the opinion from his experiments in feeding, that roots fed in winter with hay and straw helped to make soluble the dry food in the animal stomach.

**SOOT.**—Twelve quarts of soot in a hogshead of water, will make a powerful liquid manure, which will improve the growth of flowers, garden vegetables, or root crops. In either a liquid or solid state it makes an excellent top-dressing for grass or cereal crops.—*Practical Farmer.*

An empty fruit jar with a close fitting lid, will be found convenient to keep paint in good condition.

## OUR KANSAS LETTER.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY A. M. BURNS, MANHATTAN, KANSAS.

MESSRS. EDS.:—As THE FARMER is an agricultural and horticultural journal, every item relating to the advancement of these sciences, of course, would interest your readers, particularly as your journal is a national institution. I have thought that I could furnish nothing more interesting than some information relating to the State Agricultural College located at this place. Your readers will bear in mind that there was but one house in Manhattan when I selected my "claim" in March, 1856; that ten miles west of me, in the fall of 1857, some neighbors and I "butchered" our hump-backed beeves, and laid in our supply of tallow and winter's meat. Each one of us owned hundreds of thousands of cattle, but they strayed off, and many of them are now roaming over the plains further west. It was well these buffaloes were numerous, as that fall the supply of flour, and all the luxuries of civilized life were cut off from us by the hands of the "Border Ruffians," as they were termed. We had raised corn that year, but no wheat; we lived on corn bread and buffalo steak. Some were fortunate to have coffee. Others had bought a few cows, and had butter and milk, which they divided with their less fortunate neighbors who lived at a distance of four, five, and ten miles. Many, very many—not then worth twenty dollars, have for years sold their thousand and fifteen hundred bushels of corn at two dollars and fifty cents per bushel, and from three or four cows obtained on credit *then*, can *now* count their herd by the hundred.

An elevated portion of ground called "Blue Mont," was then wild land owned by Uncle Sam., but upon it now towers a stone building costing thirty thousand dollars, besides a boarding house of equal size, and the library, &c. In sight of this building, two bridges span the Blue River, near its junction with the Kansas. One is the Eastern Division Pacific Railroad Bridge, over which the cars daily run, and pass on thirty or forty miles further. This immense building is the State Agricultural College, built with our limestone, which some have pronounced to be as beautiful as Italian marble. The same material is now being shipped to Topeka, a distance of seventy miles, with which to erect the Capitol buildings of the State.

During the year 1865, there were 150 different students in attendance—88 in the College course, and 112 in the preparatory course. The whole number by terms, was 327. The average age of the students was 17 1-11, from over 16 counties. Fifteen or more of these students have been in the army, and three died in the service of their country.

About 40 of the students have been and are school teachers. This College is endowed by Government with 90,000 acres of land. The Legislature has provided for the sale, especially to actual settlers. A person is to be selected on the first of January by the Regents, who will give his whole time to the sale of this land. The income will sustain the institution.

The text books and method of instruction adopted by the institution, are believed to be the latest and very best. Harkness' Latin Grammar, with his 1st and 2nd Book in Latin; also his first book in Greek, and Headley's Greek Grammar. The Senior class that graduated in June, had read in Greek, Xenophon, Aeschines, Herodotus, Homer, the Greek tragedies, and Plato. In Latin—Cæsar, Virgil, Cicero, Sallust, Ovid, Horace and Tacitus. In Mathematics, they omit sections and all preceding it in Robinson's course. They finished Calculus, higher Astronomy, and the remaining part of the course.

Special attention is given to natural sciences, and subjects relating to agriculture, vocal and instrumental music, elocution, and calisthenics. Book-keeping and commercial law receive special attention.

The faculty are Rev. J. Denison, D.D., President; B. F. Mudge, A.M., Rev. J. H. Lee, and J. Evans Platt. The tuition is free.

I might add much more, but my letter is long enough to show your readers that Kansas has progressed within ten years, and that there is in store for her in an agricultural point of view, a glorious future.

Any person can obtain 80 acres within 15 miles, and 160, over 15 miles from the railroad to the Pacific Ocean under the homestead law.

## LEARN THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "MAC."

SOME years ago the editor of a most widely known American magazine visited the New York State Fair, and at the conclusion of an article thereupon, he remarked:—"The farmers, as a class, are not the cultivated men they should be. As a class they are less instructed in their pursuits than any other class, although there is no calling in which intelligent instruction is of more direct value. They are foolishly jealous of books and 'book-farming,' declaring that a farmer can learn only by experience." Suppose a doctor, or a lawyer, were to commence business after merely going through the routine of attendance at the office of another older member of his profession, and to have nothing more than the experience of what he had seen and heard would even a farmer who ignores "book learn-

consider him as well qualified to undertake an important case as one who in addition to his own experience, had, by reading and study, acquired a knowledge of the experience of others?

Of late years, perhaps, this prejudice against "book-learning," i. e., acquiring the results of the experience of others, has, owing to the persistent efforts of an enlightened few, somewhat abated. Yet, from actual experience in visiting at farm houses, I can safely say that there is in many sections, not one in fifty, who takes an agricultural paper, or is ambitious to do more than go through the same regular and unvaried routine of drudgery year after year, content if he can make both ends meet, and trusting to luck if he chances to do better. Many farmers no doubt take a political journal of some stripe or other, and fancy that having done so, they need do no more. Does the doctor or lawyer, &c., remain content to stand still after having acquired a knowledge of his profession? No. He knows well that if he did not continue to acquire a knowledge of all improvements and changes going on by means of books and periodicals specially devoted to his profession, he would gradually fall behind and be unable to make his living. There is no question but that a farmer who takes one or more agricultural papers and reads them, is the better for it by more than ten times the actual cost of the paper to him, and not only so, but he also exercises a beneficial influence through it, on his family, his neighbors, and his country.

It is a fact that a very large proportion of the subscribers to our agricultural papers are found among the better class of mechanics, traders, and professional men, in the cities, towns, and villages, whose ambition is to some day become possessed of a farm, or even a few acres of land, and such men, notwithstanding their want of actual experience, generally make better farmers than those who have been all their lives on a farm, but who are content to follow the beaten track of their forefathers, and remain in ignorance of the experience of others, and the improvements continually going on. Let every farmer who has a dollar, subscribe at once for some agricultural paper, and he will never afterwards be content to be without one, and himself, his family, and his farm, will gradually but surely show marked signs of improvement, and his profits become larger in proportion to the knowledge acquired through reading of the experience of others.

**PURE STOCK.**—*The Massachusetts Plowman* recommends the plan of breeding only pure-bred stock on farms owned by counties and towns. If the stock was placed in judicious hands, such a course might result in much good.

### COUNTRY HOUSES—NO. 3.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "W. H. W."

#### CHOOSING A BUILDING SITE.

Several things are to be considered in locating a country house. If we only consider where buildings should be located so that they would be the most convenient in performing the work of the farm or plantation, with no reference to other interests, we should say near the centre as possible, would best accommodate, as the necessary passing to and from distant fields would be less, the hauling of manure and crops would also be greatly economized from what it would be if located at one side. You would also be farther away from annoyances of neighbor's fowls, &c. If these and like considerations were the only ones to influence our choice in a site, without doubt the nearer the centre of the farm we placed our buildings, the greater the economy of time and labor in passing to and fro, &c.

But, instead of being the only considerations, they should be subordinate to others, for it should be remembered that we are, or ought to be social beings, and in locating our domicile we should have some regard to convenience of social intercourse. How much pleasanter to the hard working farmer to be enabled to occasionally spend an hour of an evening in social converse with a neighbor in discussing the merits of any particular crop, mode of culture, different breeds of cattle, comparing notes, &c., than to be located so far away that such intercourse could not be had, except at a sacrifice of time and strength that could be illly afforded. Again, the intercourse of family calls relieves the hard-working female part of the household of many otherwise unpleasant hours, and has a refining and elevating effect upon all interested.

American farmers are apt to live too secluded; they visit too little, keep too much within themselves to take the greatest comfort of this life—for the good of a man's life consisteth not altogether in his possessions, but in the amount of good derived therefrom. All things considered, the better location of farm buildings is along the main road, allowing the farms to extend back. In this way a greater convenience is had for intercourse with neighbors, the house is more easy of access at all times of day and night; better conveniences are enjoyed for reaching the post office, church, store, railroad station, &c., institutions in this age of improvement, we cannot well get along without. All these should be well considered; the surroundings of the site should influence the selection as well. If possible, the house and buildings should be located on high ground, not on a hill or high eminence, but where a slight descent may be obtained from the house—dry, and away from the influence

of any deleterious body of water or other miasm. Reference should also be had to the accessibility of water, either well or spring, for the house; also for the barn and stock. The nature of the soil around should be well looked to, for a garden, orchard, and ornamental grounds will be desirable; and in order to enjoy such, good soil is necessary. If the soil be poor to start with, time and money, and a great deal of patience will be required to improve it, and the process very laborious. If it will grow good corn, it is suitable; for any crop desired, will grow on good corn ground; pears, grapes, peaches, and other fruits, large or small, with flowers, can be cultivated with little trouble.

Improvements already made upon a site should have weight in determining a choice; a few good shade trees are always desirable near a house; where the lay of the ground is such as to need little or no grading, &c., the labor and expense is economized. All these, and many other considerations that may occur to the mind should be taken advantage of; for life is short, and at the best we have to perform a busy part to succeed; and all that we find ready created to hand should be incorporated into our improvements.

### THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY J. L. HERBERT.

It is now fifty-five years since the first agricultural paper was started at Baltimore, Maryland, and the way it was received by the reading public, was by hooting and jeers, as one of the great follies of the day attempting to teach farmers how to till the soil. It was without a precedent, and from that small opening what glorious results have been attained! for to-day we have some sixty or seventy periodicals devoted to farming, and hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent annually on these publications, and the best talents that money can procure are engaged in exploring this boundless theme.

Agriculture is eminently an experimental science, and the farmer of to-day needs the experience of past years, and by comparing notes, can arrive at new facts and new improvements. The farmer is by vocation an isolated being, as his employment is out amid the beauties of God's nature, where the golden sunshine comes down over him with a smile of Him who sits in the sickle of the heavens, and commanded man to labor. Here he has time and opportunity for thought. Here he can digest those great lessons which are constantly presented to the mind, and can arrive at the great fact of our day in the life of the farmer—success with the least manual labor, and for a solution of the problem, the progressive farmer watches the agricultural press as

the true source from which such information is to come. The farmer of to-day who does not keep himself fully posted up, should be pushed back to the days of pod augers and wooden plows.

The wealth of a country is based upon the surplus of its agricultural productions, hence the debt of a government is paid in a large measure from the tillage of the soil, and if that tillage is to be carried forward to a final result, the agricultural press must engineer or pioneer the way, and the advice of a celebrated writer should apply with force to the farmers of our day, "*to spare no pains to know what others are doing.*" In this pre-eminently fast age, when men think quick, and die in a hurry, the train of cars that goes on the high pressure principle, will get the liberal patronage, let the risk of life and limb be ever so much. Haste is the grand desideratum sought, and to-day let us glance at the pages of our agricultural papers, and see if the labor of a life time is not compressed into a very small compass, and the farmer who hopes for success and is not a reading man, will find himself floating down with the current, with no beacon light to warn him of danger. The agricultural press of America to-day stands on the same level with the literary press, and we hope that the time is not far distant when every farmer through the land will be a reading and consequently a thinking man.

### NOTES FROM CANADA.

SINCE the 15th of November, we have had a succession of rain storms, with warm southerly winds, culminating in a gale on the 8th of December, since which the weather has been exceedingly cold, and the ground frozen hard, with snow in some places several inches deep. The long period of open weather we have enjoyed this fall, has enabled our farmers to put in a great breadth of fall plowing; but the continued wet and sudden freezing up, has materially injured the fall wheat, at least in appearance.

The root crops generally have yielded less than usual. Prices of grain still rule high, although with a downward tendency, the supply having been short for the season, owing to the early breaking up of the country roads, which have been in an almost impassable state for some time, while the gravel and plank roads have been much injured by so long a period of wet weather.

Firewood, in the cities and large towns, has been selling at double the usual rates, entailing much hardship and suffering among the poorer classes. There is no reason to wonder why fuel should be so scarce when we see the utter and wanton destruction of so much valuable timber on many farms.

the sake of gaining a few more acres for the plow, which if kept in reserve and properly managed so as to keep up a thrifty growth of young trees coming forward, would yield a far better return for many years than when put under cultivation. Live stock of every kind is coming down in price, and pork, of which a large stock may be expected to come into market now the weather has turned cold, will bring scarcely more than half of last winter's prices, and it is likely that pork will pay farmers better to make into hams and bacon, provided it is well cured, than to sell at present prices.

MAC.

### PRIZE ESSAYS.

MESSRS. EDS.:—Your offer of premiums for the best essay on subjects named, has attracted our attention. We offer the following review and remarks upon the various topics named.

Your 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th, are for *berries*, the importance of which all who love a good table well provided with healthful, appetizing fruits, will admit.

Your 7th, *sweet potatoes*, upon the soils of Western New York, with a few dry, alluvial exceptions, we should choose to grow by exchanging the best varieties of Irish potatoes therefor.

Your 8th, *tobacco*, nothing but profit recommends its cultivation.

Your 9th, *cotton*, not acquainted with its production.

10th—*Roots for stock*.—This is an important subject, and one of increasing demand upon the attention of the farmers of the States. Roots are sure as a crop, largely productive, excellent stock food, and maintain a high state of fertility in the soil.

11th—*Flax*.—An excellent and paying crop—pays in seed and fiber. Rotting flax upon a meadow is equal to a top dressing of manure.

12th—*Hops*.—Up and down in the price current, and in the affections of the people.

13th—*Spring Lambs*.—Wouldn't give much for any other. Feed the mothers liberally, good hay, good roots, and supply good shelter always, "the year round," with high, dry, fresh pastures, and the lambs will care for themselves.

14th.—The hardiest and healthiest horses are the best—muscle vs. speed.

15th—*Bees*.—Emblems of industry; most said and least known of them.

16th—*Abuse of Animals*.—He who abuses the brute, knows not what he is doing. If his own, he is exhausting his profits to gratify his will; if another's he is "heaping up wrath against the day of wrath." We are guilty of abuse to animals in want of care—downright neglect. Woe unto such a man! Shelter your animals, that you may not be guilty of abusing them.

17th—*Pasture for Dairy Cows*.—Should be abundant, in short, clean, nutritious, upland herbage, free from weeds, and provided with an abundance of pure spring water, easily accessible.

18th—*Buildings for a Large or Small Farm*.—These should be fashioned according to the natural products of the farm; if dairy, then let the barns be ample for cow shelter, stabling, storing of fodder, and cellars for roots. If a grain farm, the buildings should be fashioned accordingly. The house is a family shelter in all cases.

10th.—Not a wagon, but a cart, is most convenient for conveying manure.

20th—*Barn Yard Manure*.—Keep it from leaching. Apply as a top dressing to meadows, even after mowing, or to pastures in early spring, and you will get your own again with usury.

21st—*Improving Exhausted Land*.—We are engaged in this work now. Plow down to a soil never before reached, and coax the grass roots, (will they need coaxing?) to follow the plow.

22d—*To Keep up the Fertility of the Soil*.—Treat it as you do yourself—feed it, feed it, feed it!

24th—*Cutting hay and Grain by Machinery*.—Machines are best if you cannot do your work yourself. With the machine at proper time, you can make a short job of what by hand would be a longer one, avoiding risk of exposure to weather.

23d—*Permanent Grass Lands*.—Are much like continual labor. We shall await this essay with interest.

Here endeth our comments. These essays by practical farmers, cannot fail of value and interest to your readers. We hope they will receive that attention which their merits deserve.—*W. H. G., Hornby, New York.*

### HEDGES.

MESSRS. EDS.:—I saw in one of your numbers, a short communication from an Indiana writer, of an experiment now going on, that he was interested in, and I hope the result was favorable, but fear otherwise. Some years ago, I tried a similar course with the hawthorn; this I did in some measure to convince hedge growers if such a thing was feasible or not. The result proved the fallacy of such a procedure. First, a few straggling plants began to shew up, then for some distance a fine show, dwindling down to stragglers, and so alternately the line through. The next year vacancies filled up somewhat, but the plants of the previous year overshadowed the younger ones, so that very few of them survived. I kept these plants some years in order that persons may have proof as to the difficulty of making hedges in this manner. Some, notwithstanding, would not be convinced, but repeated my experiment, when the loss of time and failure of seed opened their eyes. They found that to raise a good hedge, plants must be used and not seed.—*W. M. B., Skaneateles, N. Y.*

AMERICAN FARMING AS SEEN BY AN  
ENGLISH AGRICULTURIST.

(Continued from page 20.)

*Agricultural Machinery.*—The tillage of the land is so mixed up with the question of the implements used, that what little I have to say will be under the head of "Agricultural Machinery." In England, as you are all aware, an enormous demand has set in during the last twenty years for improved agricultural implements. This has mainly arisen from a more correct appreciation of the value and advantages of good machines. In America, owing to the high rate of wages and the difficulty of obtaining an adequate supply of labor, agricultural machinery calculated to save manual labor, has been an absolute necessity. Without the reaping machine the crops could not be harvested, and without the thrashing machine they could not be brought to market. Hence the trade in agricultural implements has reached gigantic proportions. From inquiries I made, I found that at least 100,000 reaping and mowing machines are made annually in the States. I was there during the harvest—everywhere the reaper was to be seen going; the scythe or the sickle was just as exceptional as the reaping machine was in England ten years ago. The thrashing machines were very inferior to ours, though the Americans were very apt to think they were far ahead of us, and that we were a very slow people; their machines were almost exclusively worked by horse power. One farmer on the banks of Lake Ontario who had ten horses yoked to his thrashing machine, seemed much surprised that in England we did all our thrashing by steam power. He had never heard of such a thing. The implements of the farm, if we except reapers, are of very inferior design and build to our English machines.

I thought one great want in American farming was good steering drills and horse hoes to follow. In a country where labor is so scarce and dear, the hoeing of the corn crop by animal power would be an immense boon. The drills are not made with a steering; consequently, the drilling is bad, rendering the use of the horse hoe impracticable; and, as labor is so dear, in most cases the corn and the weeds seem to be left "to grow together until the harvest." To a farmer in the north of New York State, on whose land I went to see some reaping machines at work, and whose barley was full of thistles, I said, "If that crop had been in England, we should have cut out the thistles." He replied it would not pay, adding he did not mind thistles, for he always had a good crop of wheat after.

Nearly the whole of the implements are furnished with a seat for the men to ride—the idea being to get more work out of the laborers. I found the

prairie farmers very desirous of having a good "gang plow," as it is called, on which the plowman could ride. I told them if the men had easier work, it would be at the expense of the horses. As reaping machines are used, and in consequence open furrows undesirable, the land is frequently plowed as follows: A short ridge is set in the middle of the field, the plow passing not only up and down each side, but a furrow is taken off in going round at each end. By this means the plow is always in the ground, and the whole field plowed without leaving an open furrow. A field may also be commenced by plowing a furrow all round the outside, and finishing in the middle. The American farmer is not satisfied, as we are, with one team plowing an acre per day; but expects from each team of a pair of horses, two acres to two and a half acres. I rather doubted so much being done; but was over and over assured by both employers and men that two acres and a half were not at all an unusual day's work. The furrows, I must tell you, are over a foot wide—none of your fancy plowing match style. The land is also generally much lighter than our English soils, and the depth of the plowing is, according to my notions, very much too shallow—a fault not at all uncommon on this side the Atlantic. Steam plows have not yet been introduced. Several attempts have been made; but as all the schemes have been with engines to travel over the surface—after Romaine's plan—no wonder they have not succeeded. On the prairies there would be no difficulty in constructing machinery capable of breaking up twenty or even twenty-five acres of such land per day, and this with only three men. Where labor is so scarce, and time such an object, the advantage of the steam plow would be immense. In Iowa I saw a very simple and efficient apparatus called a "horse pitchfork," for raising crops on to the stack, a horse simply drawing the load over a pulley. I also saw a hay-loader attached to the rear of a wagon, and which gathered up and elevated the crop on to the vehicle, thereby saving much manual labor.

*Live Stock.*—Although the territory of the United States is so much greater than England, the live stock is by no means in the same proportion. The cows and other horned cattle, according to the census of 1860, amounted to about 17,000,000, about double the estimated number of the United Kingdom—2,500,000 of the cattle were returned as working oxen. The sheep, on the other hand fell short of the estimated English number by 2,500,000; whilst the pigs exceeded by ten times our number, reaching the fabulous number of 83,000,000, or just about as many pigs as people. The bulk of the cattle I saw were of the Shorthorn type. Alderneys and Ayrshires are much in repute for dairy pur



poses; but, as in England, the Shorthorn is the prevailing breed. The sheep of America are of a very nondescript character, generally miserably bred and ill-looking things, about half the size of the English. Flocks of Leicesters, Southdowns, and Merinos are to be found; but they are exceptional. There is one matter—an important one to an Englishman—viz., the quality of the meat. Whether it be the climate, the food, or the cooking, or all three, I don't know; but the beef and mutton are most inferior, tasteless, and tough in the extreme. Pork is tolerably good. The national importance of paying more attention to sheep is being urged upon the American farmer by the daily as well as by the agricultural press, an increase in the supply of wool being deemed an absolute necessity, five millions sterling having been paid to England for woolen goods in 1865. The draft horses used in America are much smaller—very different from our English type. They are well bred, clean legged, and active. The "Kentucky thorough-bred," as it is called, is the favorite breed. I saw an entire horse of this breed upon the farm of Mr. Emery Cobb, at Kankakee, in Illinois; he was made, as our Secretary would say, "all over like a hunter." I could have picked out of Mr. Cobb's team a good many "weight carriers" which would fetch fancy prices at Tattersall's. I did not see in the whole of my travels what I call a good stout draft horse, such as I win the prizes with in my own county. At the railway station in Philadelphia and elsewhere are to be seen horses of the cart breed, "raised" as I was informed, in Ohio and Pennsylvania. When the Americans grow bigger crops, as I am sure they might do, they will want bigger horses in their reaping machines; and when they stir their land deeper, which I am sure they ought to do, they will, if they do not adopt steam, require horses of greater weight. In some districts I visited, horses are shod with malleable cast iron shoes, which are fastened without the use of nails. They simply clip the foot, and are secured by rivets. I have a specimen on the table which I intend to try.

*Dairying.*—Is an important branch of rural economy in America. A very novel feature is the introduction of the factory system. In Oneida County, New York, there are about 40 cheese manufactories, or "Associated Dairies," as they are called, having 16,000 cows. I have only time to glance at this subject. The advantages claimed are that the farmer's family is relieved of a good deal of drudgery, that by the employment of a skillful superintendent a more uniform and better quality at less cost is obtained, and, of course higher prices realized. Messrs. Moore, cheese merchants in Buffalo, told me that for two or three years past their shipments of factory cheese had commanded the highest prices the Liverpool market. \* \* \*

*Agricultural Meetings.*—Soon after my arrival at New York, I heard of a great trial of reaping and mowing machines by the New York State Agricultural Society at Auburn, to which I at once set out. No less than sixty machines were exhibited for the prizes offered, the Government of the State having liberally voted the necessary sum to cover the expenses of the trials. These trials were conducted in a very different style to those which prevail in England. In the first place, three weeks were set apart for the purpose of testing the machines on various crops, and under varying circumstances. A long list of instructions to the judges, directing their attention to the various points deemed essential, drawn up by a committee of makers and farmers, had been prepared and printed. The jury consisted of the old English number of twelve, with a president, a secretary, and a chief marshal. These judges were subdivided into committees, some to decide on mechanical arrangements; others, on the quality of the work performed. Then there were the "time committee," "the dynamometer committee," and "the committee of description." After the trials were over, the jury remained at Auburn two or three days to draw up their report, and a second and final meeting to settle the awards was fixed to be held at New York on September 1st, the prizes being subsequently declared at a meeting held at the New York State Fair at Saratoga, on September 18th. The pains taken in preparing the points to which the attention of the judges should be directed, the various modes in which the machines were to be tested, the subdivision of the jury, the length of time devoted to the purpose, and the careful report, containing a record of facts rather than of opinions, seemed to me to be a long way in advance of our English mode of conducting such trials. One of the exhibitors said to me that the great use of these trials was that the experience gained, and the careful record of every fact elicited, were a means of teaching manufacturers their own deficiencies. This cannot be accomplished by a society unless the same care and time be taken as is the practice on the other side of the Atlantic. I was so struck with the careful preparation of the points to which the attention of the judges was directed, and with the whole arrangement, that I at once wrote to Mr. Hall Dare upon it, and I hope the implement committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of England will make some inquiry into the plans I have alluded to.

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*State Fairs.*—At Saratoga I had an opportunity of seeing one of their great State fairs, as they are termed. Here I found a grand array of agricultural machinery, particularly of reaping and mowing machines. Large sheds were also erected in another part of the ground for the display of domestic wares

and machines, such as cooking stoves, carpet sweepers, potato parers, and dairy utensils. This department was the chief centre of attraction to crowds of ladies. Other sheds were devoted to horticultural products and appliances, and the separation of agricultural implements from these other branches greatly facilitated the object of the visitor who wished to see and examine the agricultural machinery. At our Royal Agricultural Meetings, owing to the mixture of agricultural, horticultural, and domestic wares, I have found it impossible to make a thorough examination of the agricultural machinery. I think the Royal Agricultural Society of England would do well to turn its attention to this subject, for I hold that these agricultural gatherings are not only marts, but great educational institutions, and every facility should be given for the acquisition of knowledge; at least it ought not to be rendered as difficult as possible. There is one feature about the agricultural meetings of America which our meetings in England are too generally assuming—namely, they are degenerating into mere gala days, instead of sober business meetings. The trotting races at Saratoga, which took place on the show ground, were well supported and absorbed much attention, whilst on the plowing ground not a single candidate put in an appearance, although liberal prizes were offered, so little interest was felt in this practical part of an agricultural meeting. \* \*

I should take up too much time to speak of their show animals. The superiority of their Shorthorns is notorious. Singularly enough the first prize Shorthorn bull at Saratoga I found was got by my brother's bull, the 2nd Duke of Thorndale, a bull my brother imported from America, and bred by Mr. Thorne, Dutchess county. The climate evidently suits our English breeds—the Alderneys or Jerseys, the Ayrshire, the Devon, and the Herefords, all seem to thrive, and have their respective champions; but the Shorthorn, as here, has the lion's share.

Mr. Howard gave a very high eulogy on the free schools and educational institutions of the United States, and drew a comparison between the tenant farmer of England and the free, land-owning farmer of our country, highly favorable to the latter, and concluded as follows:

Although a better feeling is springing up than prevailed during the war, there is not that cordiality between the two countries which should exist between two such communities. America is our natural, and ought to be our firmest ally, as we begin to know and understand each other better, let us hope that on both sides of the ocean there will be an absence both of acts and words calculated to provoke or keep up irritation or ill feeling. There have been undoubtedly faults on both sides; 'tis to

be hoped that the present Government will do all that can honorably be done to bring about a better understanding, and that without delay. In conclusion I would remark that when a man has visited England and America he has seen the two most wonderful countries the sun has ever shone upon. Never before, in the history of the world, were there ever gathered together upon so small an area such numbers, so much wealth, such a development of industrial enterprise, so well governed, and such a practical and common-sense people as are to be found in Old England. On the other hand, never before in the history of the world, has there been anything like the rapid growth of America: so vast a territory, peopled so quickly, its resources developed so speedily, its institutions so completely and well organized, and such progress made in the industrial arts. In America, you find everywhere the same activity, the same reliant enterprise as at home. These traits of character are undoubtedly somewhat intensified by the circumstances, and perhaps the climate of that country. When I witnessed the large amount of social prosperity throughout the States, resulting from these qualities, instead of feeling anything like national jealousy at the wonderful results everywhere visible, I was impressed more fully with the causes of the true greatness of my own country. I felt proud in the remembrance that America was the offspring of England; that the old country had been reproduced on so grand a scale in the new; that the character of the parent stock was so stamped upon and so apparent in the vigorous growth of its offshoots; not only the blood, but the ideas, the laws, the religion of England exist and flourish in the United States. The Anglo-Saxon race on American soil is asserting its supremacy on a gigantic scale, as well as with characteristic energy and vigor. One very remarkable phenomenon is, that notwithstanding the immense number of immigrants from the other nations of Europe, the English type of humanity is everywhere predominant. Like its own great river, the Mississippi, which receives numbers of tributary streams that are blended with and become one great current—so with all the races which flock to America: they feel the force of and become blended with the grand current of Anglo-American life. In a generation or two, the French, the Dutch, the German, and the Celt, lose everything of their foreign distinctness, and nothing is left of their national character but the name. The language, the ideas, the freedom, the enterprise, and what was so thoroughly exemplified during the late deplorable war—the courage, the pluck of England, all live in America, and seem to be uniting to form the greatest and most powerful empire the world has ever seen.

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Pastures.**

A writer for *The Prairie Farmer* who has been in Illinois fifteen years, protests against breaking up land intended for pasture. He would have tight floors and mangers for saving hayseed, which should be sown upon the land, or hay may be fed upon the unplowed pasture. Judiciously managed in this way, the pastures will soon be found to be mostly in tame grass.

**Profits of Bees.**

Among the few notes on bees this year, we notice that a correspondent of *The Rural New Yorker* says he had seven swarms last spring, which, with the exception of two or three, were light, and he had little hope of profit this year. But the account stands thus: 9 new swarms at \$5, \$45; 150 pounds white clover honey at 30 cents, \$45; 50 pounds buckwheat honey at 25 cents, \$12.50; total, \$102.50, or nearly \$15 per swarm.

**Compost.**

A correspondent of *The Germantown Telegraph* gives the following sensible advice:—A majority of farmers do not attach importance enough to the subject of saving and making manure and compost. To them manure and labor are what capital and credit are to the merchant. They think they cannot afford to pay five and six dollars per cord for manure, and it does seem a high price; but one thing they can do, they can take better care of what they have, and prevent the waste of what is the most valuable part. Many hog pens are built on sloping ground, the manure sinking away to some drain and lost. Now with proper care the manure of every hog raised and fattened is worth twenty dollars to put in corn hills. It is better not to let hogs wallow in the manure as most of farmers do with the view that the hogs will work fine the coarse trash generally thrown into the pen. Make a tight board floor to the pen to prevent the leakage of the urine and manure, then throw in the absorbents, such as weeds, straw, shavings, sawdust, leaves, chip dirt, briars, and in fact almost fine hickory brush, clean the sty out once a week, and throw the manure into a square pile, exposed to all the rain that falls, and in a dry time keep the manure moist by the addition of water, or cover with damp earth to prevent the "blue blazes." By this arrangement with ten hogs and plenty of material, a farmer will make near two hundred dollars' worth of manure ready for the land in good condition, and have better hogs than if he allowed them to wallow at pleasure in the mass.

**Rye for Fattening.**

A correspondent of *The New England Farmer* says:—"Many people consider rye good for nothing except for making whiskey, but having used it several years for horse feed, and knowing its value for that purpose, I concluded to try it for feeding my pig. I took a small cask with one head out, and filled it about half full of dish-water, say two or three pailsful, and put rye meal enough into it to make it as thick as would dip easily, replenishing it from day to day, and throwing in what sour milk we had from one cow, after using all the milk we needed for a large family. Of course the pig had but little. I fed with this until the pig was more than six months old, when I gave some corn meal, but mostly small ears

of corn. Killed at 8 months old, and it weighed 241 pounds—the cheapest pork I ever raised. I kept the pig in a close pen. She ate well all the time—never lost a meal, I think."

**Deep Plowing.**

"F. W." writes *The Maine Farmer* in favor of deep plowing to secure good crops. He adds: Twelve years ago I sold my little farm, and the purchaser failing to pay for it, it came back into my own hands some five years since. I found the buildings in a dilapidated state, the fences mostly used up for fuel, the soil much deteriorated, and the place entirely overgrown with witch grass. The man that bought it pursued the *skimming* method of farming, by plowing only five or six inches deep, which rendered the soil too shoal to produce any remunerative crop without the application of much manure. The *skimming* manner of culture had, in fact been in operation so long, that the soil was about as incapable of producing a crop of any value as *skimmed milk* is of producing good butter or rich cheese. Deep plowing was substituted for the "skimming" process, and the land is now becoming productive again.

**Plants in Rooms.**

*The Scientific American* has some useful hints on the cultivation of plants in rooms:—"Plants are frequently injured by injudicious watering. Some persons seem to suppose that deluges of water afford a remedy for all the evils to which plants are subject. This is a mistake, true they require a considerable amount of moisture, but not one-half the quantity which is oftentimes applied. Evening is the best time to water them, and in every case, cold water from a cistern or a pump should be avoided. The water should be warmed by exposure to the sun, or in some other manner, up to the temperature of the atmosphere, before it is used. Many plants are greatly retarded in their growth by cold water being poured upon them. The quantity to be applied varies with the size and nature of the flower; the ground should be thoroughly moistened, but not soaked. If the leaves should become infested with insects, some tobacco juice, mixed with water, sprinkled over them, will soon destroy these. The great feature in cultivating plants to promote their health is that which is equally efficacious with human beings—cleanliness."

**Treatment of Galled Back.**

The celebrated Veterinary Surgeon, George H. Dadd, gives in *The Prairie Farmer*, the following:—So soon as an abrasion is discovered on the back of a horse, the animal should be excused from duty for a few days: the abraded parts should be dressed twice daily with a portion of tincture of aloes and myrrh. This simple treatment will soon heal the parts. Should there be no abrasion, but simple swelling, attended with heat, pain and tenderness, the parts should be frequently sponged with cold water. Occasionally the skin undergoes the process of hardening, (induration.) This is a condition of the parts, known to the farriers of old as "sitfast," and the treatment is as follows:—Procure one ounce of iodine, and smear the *indurated* spot with a portion of the same, twice daily.

Some cases of galled back and shoulders are due to negligence and abuse, yet many animals, owing to a pecu-

liarity of constitution, will "chafe," as the saying is, in those parts which come in contact with the collar and saddle, and neither human foresight nor mechanical means can prevent the same.

#### Whitewashing Fruit and Ornamental Trees.

An old farmer, in *The Germantown Telegraph* says:—The practice of coating the bark of fruit and ornamental trees with whitewash is one that cannot be too severely deprecated. The obstruction of the perspiratory organs and orifices, whether effected by the application of whitewash or any other adhesive material, always acts as a fruitful source of disease, and in time proves fatal to the tree. When the bark becomes rough, or incrustated with moss, it should be cleaned by scraping and washing down thoroughly with a solution of potash or soda in water, affording smoothness to the surface without obstructing the pores.

#### Hog Cholera.

J. Thompson, of Indiana, in *The Western Rural*, gives the following preventive and cure of this disease: "I would suggest if tar is smeared at the bottom of the troughs in which the hogs are fed, in the proportion of a pint to a trough ten or twelve feet long, and a couple of ounces of flour of sulphur, and some dissolved saltpetre be mixed with the food daily for a week or more, and chloride of lime sprinkled about the sleeping places, hog cholera may be prevented and cured.

#### The Egyptian Bee.

*The American Bee Journal* says that through the agency of the "Society of Acclimatization," at Berlin in Prussia, the variety of the honey bee prevalent in Egypt, has been imported and introduced in Germany. Mr. Vogel of Custrin, in whose charge the imported colony was placed by the Society, has been successful in multiplying stock and preserving its purity, and several young queens have already been sent to England. It is stated that arrangements have been made to bring this variety to this country at an early day. It differs from both the common and the Italian bee in size and marking and is stated to be quite as gentle in temperament as the latter, while the breed is more easily kept pure.

#### Why Salt acts as a Manure.

The agricultural editor of *The Tribune* solves this question by saying: "The reason is, because it contains much of the quality of unleached ashes!" His reason for concluding that "salt contains much of the quality of unleached ashes," is that soda ash is manufactured from salt.

We would like to know what "quality" of unleached ashes is contained in soda ash, beyond the three or four per cent of carbonate of soda found in the best wood ashes. The poor kinds of ashes made from pine, &c., sometimes contain as much as twenty per cent, but this simply shows that the more nearly wood ashes approach soda ash, the worse they are.

The way in which salt acts as a manure is still an unsolved question. It may act as a solvent to other manures, as the phosphates; or it may act as a vegetable tonic or stimulant, like sulphate of iron; or it may, to a slight extent, act directly as food for plants. But unfortunately, our knowledge of its relations to plant

growth are too limited to allow us to decide positively, and therefore we do not always know when and where salt will be beneficial.

To the scientific, such statements as those we have just quoted, are productive of no harm, but to beginners they are calculated to do injury in many ways, and it is a pity that men should be so anxious to appear scientific as to "assume a knowledge when they have it not."—*Country Gentleman*.

#### Nutriments in Water.

In the new number of *The Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* we have the conclusion of Professor Schultzenstein's paper on the constituents of water, in which he asserts positively that pure pump, spring, or river water, contains an inexhaustible supply of nutriment; that is the real staple food for plants; and that the knowledge of this is calculated to throw light on many puzzling phenomena in vegetable physiology and culture. The art of making water nutritious should be the true aim of horticulture and agriculture. The Rev. W. Kingsly gives an illustrated note describing his method of border-heating. By placing pipes for the circulation of hot water among drain-tiles under the earth, near the roots of trees, he maintained a temperature equal to that of a very gentle hotbed, during the winter months. He thus (at South Kilverton) obtained fruit of excellent flavor, which otherwise could not have been ripened. He considers his system as yet as merely an experiment. This number of *The Journal* also contains several papers of a purely horticultural nature, as well as extracts from the "Proceedings."

#### Save the Soap Suds.

"I say now that are is a wicked waste—d'ye know it, neighbor Flandry?" "What, uncle Enoch? Dunno as I quite understand ye." "Why, throwin' out and wastin' that way all them soap suds the way your gals there is doin'." "What is soap suds worth, uncle Enoch?" "'Bout a hundred dollars, what your folks'll make 'tween now and spring. Ourn was worth more'n that last winter, and I guess our folks don't wash more dishes and clothes'n yours." "Why, what in natur do you do with soap suds to make 'em worth that, uncle Enoch?" "Didnt I tell ye? Wal, raly now, I meant to done it, and I will now. We save every mite of our suds and dish water for the garden and truck patch, splashin' it over the ground 'bout once a week all winter. It's good for gooseberries and currants, and kills a powerful lot of bugs, and beetles, and pesky worms, and fattens the ground more'n a hundred dollars' worth besides. That's what soap suds is good for."—*Sat. Even. Post*.

#### New Manure.

We learn from *Galignani's Messenger* that MM. Blanchard and Chateau by mixing acid phosphate of iron and magnesia with nightsoil, have succeeded in fixing its volatile principles. Acid phosphate of magnesia and iron is cheap, and moreover, an excellent disinfecting substance, and it appears from the experiments which the city of Paris has made on a large scale, that both as an agricultural and a sanitary agent, this phosphate will render great service to society.

## Horticultural.

### WHAT VARIETIES TO PLANT.

In the January number, we gave a description of the leading varieties of strawberries, but most readers of *THE FARMER* probably want to grow a succession of small fruits through the season; therefore, we continue the subject.

#### CURRENTS.

A species of fruit that has attracted less attention for a few years past than its relative merits entitle it to. One reason for this neglect, undoubtedly, has been the devastations in many sections, of the currant worm. Another reason, the high price of sugar, an indispensable ingredient in preparing the currant for the table. Dusting the leaves of the currant bush, when the worms are feeding upon them, with powdered white hellebore, will drive them away; and the price of sugar is gradually declining, so we may resume the culture of the currant.

Among old varieties of long standing, the Red Dutch and the White Dutch retain their popularity, and should not be excluded from modern collections.

*Cherry Currant*.—Much larger than the Red Dutch, but more acid and a shorter bunch.

*Versailles*.—Best red currant; fruit nearly as large as the Cherry, sweeter, and bunch longer.

*White Grape*.—Largest white currant; sweet, excellent.

*Black Naples*.—Best black currant; large, hardy, productive.

Currents are propagated by cuttings, and by dividing old roots.

#### RASPBERRIES.

Second only to the strawberry in popular regard, easier of cultivation, scarcely less profitable as a market berry.

*Doolittle's Improved Black Cap*.—The common Black Cap improved by careful culture, until its size is nearly double the original, and its quality improved. Very hardy, prolific, requiring no winter protection, not suckering, but propagated by layering the tips of the canes in autumn. Many prefer its flavor to that of the red varieties.

*Miami Black Cap*.—Similar in its habits and general appearance to the above. Rather stronger canes, less thorny; continues longer in bearing.

*Purple Cane*.—A hardy red variety, with habits similar to the Doolittle. Very productive.

*Philadelphia*.—This is a new, red raspberry, which is growing in favor wherever tested. It is hardy, very productive, but not first class in flavor. Propagated by suckers.

*Franconia*.—A large, red variety, of fair quality, productive. Requires covering in winter. Propagated by suckers.

*Red Antwerp*—(Hudson River Antwerp.)—The best of red raspberries, where it succeeds. Must be covered in winter. Propagated by suckers.

*Briuckle's Orange*.—A high flavored, yellow berry,

tolerably productive, but needs winter protection. Propagated by suckers.

There are a few varieties of ever-bearing raspberries, which produce a second crop in the fall, provided the first crop is not too large. Among these, the Ohio Everbearing, a black—and the Catawissa, a red variety, are among the most reliable.

Among new varieties, the thornless Black Cap, and Clark, a light crimson berry, are promising from limited trial.

A large, firm, delicious, productive red variety, separating readily from its receptacle, and so hardy as not to suffer, uncovered, in our severest winters, is a desideratum not yet achieved.

#### BLACKBERRIES

Follow close in the wake of raspberries, and form the connecting link between them and grapes.

*Dorchester High Bush*.—An excellent, early variety, moderately productive. Large, long, black, good for market or home consumption.

*Lawton or New Rochelle*.—A large, oblong, glossy black, productive sort; pretty acid, unless left upon the canes until just ready to drop, when it is good. The canes should be shortened in once or twice during the growing season, to cause the wood to ripen; otherwise there is danger of their being frozen down in winter.

New Jersey has produced two new varieties within a few years, which amateurs can have the privilege of testing, by paying from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per plant. Wilson's Early is said to be early; Kittatinny is claimed to be as productive as the Lawton, and of better quality.

#### GRAPES.

We approach the "grape question," we confess, with hesitancy. So excited have the public become upon that subject, so many are interested in the sale of new varieties, and so varied are the results on different soils, and in different latitudes, that it is impossible to give descriptions that will be generally applicable and satisfactory.

*Hartford Prolific*.—This grape has now been pretty thoroughly tested, and may be considered one of our earliest varieties. Ripens first week in September. Bunch large, shouldered, berry medium, round, thick skin, black, covered with blue bloom, sweet, with foxy flavor, improved by hanging some time on the vine, after turning. Hardy, productive, quite free from disease.

*Creveling*.—Not so well tested. Bunch long, shouldered—berry, medium to large, round, black, with little bloom; pulp, tender, sweet, and very good. Four or five days later than the Hartford; and if the bunches could be rendered more compact by planting between compact varieties, it would probably be one of the most desirable early sorts. More compact on older vines.

*Concord*.—Has the merit of being a hardy, healthy, productive variety. Does not hang very well to the stem, and owing to the thinness of its skin, is liable to crack in picking. With these defects, it is still the most popular variety we have in this latitude. Bunch

large, heavy, shouldered, compact; berries large, round, black with blue bloom; sweet, with tender pulp.

*Delaware*.—The richest outdoor grape that has been grown in the latitude of Rochester. Bunch small, very compact, shouldered; berry, small, round, flesh color, with lilac bloom; thin skin; sweet, tender, rich, delicious. Hardy and productive. Ripens five to ten days later than the Hartford.

The above varieties are pretty certain of ripening in this latitude in all seasons.

Isabella, Diana, and Catawba are not so certain, especially the latter two, which often suffer from mildew and rot. We cannot entirely dispense with the Isabella, but should only plant largely, after trying it on a small scale. Indeed, the same remark can properly be applied to all varieties.

We have several new sorts, as the Adirondack, Isabella, and Iona, which are very promising in some localities, but need further trial.

South of the 40th degree of latitude, a number of excellent varieties are grown, which are uncertain here. Among them Herbemont, Norton's Virginia, Cynthiana, Martha, Maxatawny, and Union Village, are worthy of mention.

At the rate grape planting has been extended for the last five years, good, cheap grapes will soon be within the reach of every one, in our favored land, and we shall not be under the necessity of importing spurious, adulterated wines.

### THE HOT BED.

DURING this month, our readers of the warmer latitudes will want to commence their hot beds. In compliance with requests of correspondents, we give an article on the subject.

The great desideratum in a hot bed, is an even, steady, bottom heat, all over the bed, to continue generally, about two months. In other words, we must obtain fuel that will undergo such a slow combustion, as to supply a steady heat for two months, without any addition of fuel. The proper selection and preparation of manure for the hot bed, is therefore, an object of greater importance than the construction of the frame and sash.

Farmers, usually, through the winter, throw their horse manure out doors, where the cattle pick out much of the straw, leaving little besides the horse-droppings, which become mixed with snow, trampled down, and will not ferment—consequently is unfit for the hot bed.

We generally save the manure which we intend for the hot bed, in a vacant stall, in the stable, and use straw pretty freely in bedding the horses, so that there may be a large proportion of straw in the pile. Leaves are also very good, if they can be obtained. We make the pile pretty large, so that it will not become thick enough to heat much until we have accumulated about enough for our hot bed, at least, enough of it to grow our earliest plants.

After the fermentation has continued two or three days, we turn the piles inside out—upside down—to

cause it to heat evenly all through, and to intermix the coarse litter thoroughly with the finer manure. The piles should be turned in this way, two or three times. So much for the preparation of the manure; now, for making the hot bed.

If no previous preparation has been made, and the ground is frozen, some means will have to be taken to thaw the surface, both to obtain earth for the hot bed, and to enable you to dig the pit. Then, make your frame, of good 1 1-2 inch pine plank, about 15 inches in front, and 3 1-2 feet in the rear, and 6 feet in width, fastening the corners together with hooks and staples, so that it may be taken apart, and put under shelter when not in use. The sash we would have about three lights, of 8 by 10 glass, wide, 6 1-2 feet long, the lights to lap a quarter of an inch.

Having made the frame and sash, select a warm exposure protected from northerly winds, where the sun may shine upon the glass all day, and there place your frame, with sash on. A few sunny days will thaw the earth, under the glass, so that you can dig the pit, saving the richer soil to put on the manure.

The pit should be 2 feet deep, and the manure filled in 3 feet before settling. In making the bed, be very careful to have the surface level, and well beaten down with the back of the fork; otherwise it will settle unevenly, and cause much inconvenience. After the bed is made, it is well to let it heat up a little before putting on the earth, which should be 4 or 5 inches deep for plants that are to be transplanted, and rather deeper for those that are to obtain their growth in the hot bed.

The novice will undoubtedly make some mistakes in the management of the hot bed; will allow it to get too hot, or too cold; will water it too much, or let it get too dry; but by close observation he will learn by his failures, as well as his successes, and in course of time acquire that skill by experience, which will always ensure success.

### ORIGIN OF PLANTS

Celery originated in Germany.  
The chestnut came from Italy.  
The onion originated in Egypt.  
Tobacco is a native of Virginia.  
The nettle is a native of Europe.  
The citron is a native of Greece.  
The pine is a native of America.  
The poppy originated in the East.  
Oats originated in North Africa.  
Rye originally came from Siberia.  
Parsley was first known in Sardinia.  
The pear and apple are from Europe.  
Spinach was first cultivated in Arabia.  
The sunflower was brought from Peru.  
The mulberry originated in Persia.  
The gourd is probably an Eastern plant.  
The walnut and peach came from Persia.  
The horse chestnut is a native of Thibet.  
The quince came from the island of Crete.  
The cucumber came from the East Indies.  
The radish is a native of China and Japan.  
Peas are supposed to be of Egyptian origin.

Garden beans came from the East Indies.  
Garden cress is from Egypt and the East.  
Horse radish was brought from the South of Europe.  
Hemp is a native of Europe and America.  
The parsnep is supposed to be a native of Arabia.

The potato is a well known native of Peru and Mexico.

The currant and gooseberry came from Southern Europe.

Buckwheat came originally from Siberia and Tartary.

Millet was first known in India and Abyssinia.

Writers of undeniable respectability state that the cereals and others of those edible productions, grow spontaneously in that portion of Tartary east of the Belur Tag, and north of the Himalaya mountains.—*Ex.*

## PLANTS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES.

A CHAPTER FROM VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE.

PERHAPS in no way is there more scope for the taste and skill of the gardener, or amateur, than in the selection of plants best suited for particular decorative purposes, and their tasteful arrangement. There may be beautiful furniture in the cabinet shop, but it is not attractive—no one is pleased at the display. A hundredth part of the quantity tastefully arranged in the kitchen, drawing-room or parlor, would attract and please by its appropriateness to the purposes for which it was designed and its tasteful arrangement. As much disappointment often results from selecting seeds that produce plants not well adapted to the purposes for which they are designed, I will endeavor here, and also all through the catalogue, to give such descriptions and arrangements of the different classes, as will aid my customers as much as possible; still, study, observation and experience, alone will make perfect.

As before observed, much disappointment often results from an injudicious selection of seeds. Most of the trailing Lobellias, for instance, are superb for pots and hanging baskets; but if planted in the garden, to add to the effect, and where it is desirable to make a good show to be seen at a distance, they are worthless. This is the reason why one customer will write, "Those Lobellias you sent me were beautiful; I never had anything so graceful in a basket—a wilderness of delicate flowers, and in bloom so long;" while another says, "All the seeds produced magnificent flowers except the choice Lobellias—they were tiny things, with flowers no better than many of our weeds." The only difficulty was, that in one case they were used in the proper place, and in the other, out of place.

Some inadvertently place tall and free growing plants in the front of flower beds, instead of using them for the background; and, because they dislike them out of place, imagine that they can be of no use anywhere, while in their proper place they are really admirable. There are places where even the coarse Sunflower can be used with advantage and be made to produce a fine effect. In our descriptions of the different flowers, we have given the height to which they grow, so that no one need commit a serious error in this respect. In

most cases we have also stated the purposes for which the different varieties are particularly adapted. Sad mistakes are often made with running or climbing plants. Of course they are comparatively worthless, unless provided with the necessary support. Indeed, instead of being an ornament, they are almost a nuisance, if allowed to run about the ground, where they can never make a natural and healthy growth. The same plants, when used to cover an arbor, or buildings, or fence, or when properly trained upon a trellis provided for the purpose, are the most effective means provided for garden decoration. Here we have the true drapery of nature. Below we mention a few that can be used with advantage.

**FLOWERS FOR A CONSTANT BRILLIANT SHOW.**—These are familiar, doubtless, to most of our readers. The Aster, Antirrhinum, Balsam, Dianthus, Delphinium, Pansy, Petunia, Phlox Drummondii, Portulaca, Salpiglossia, Scabiosa, Stock, Double Zinnia, and other varieties that we have not space to name, should have a place in every collection.

**FLOWERS FOR MASSES OF COLOR.**—In modern gardening it is quite popular to grow entire beds of a particular color. The effect is very striking. White flowers are in great demand for cutting for wedding and for wreathing the still pale yet beautiful forms of the loved dead. The following are some of the most desirable plants for growing in masses for display in the garden. A few of the taller varieties are most desirable for cutting.

*White.*—Sweet Alyssum, Candytuft, Clarkia, Sweet Pea, Phlox, Portulaca, Stock.

*Blue.*—Ageratum Mexicanum, Campanula, Clintonia elegans, Gillia achillæfolia, Larkspur, Myosotis, Nemophila insignis, Sweet Pea, Veronica Syriaca, Whitlavia grandiflora.

*Shades of Red.*—Cacalia coccinea, Dianthus, Sweet Pea, Petunia, Phlox, Portulaca, Stock, Zinnia.

*Yellow.*—Erysimum, Escneonoltzia, Marigold, Oxycorys chrysanthemoides, Portulaca, Dwarf Tropæolum.

**RIBBON BEDS.**—This is a very pretty style of planting, and very popular in Europe. We very seldom see any attempt at anything of the kind in America, and the directions in most of the books are so elaborate they are really discouraging. I will try to give a few simple directions that I hope will induce some of my readers to try this very pretty method. The plan is to set plants the same height and color in a row, several rows forming the bed. Fig. 1 represents a bed or border of

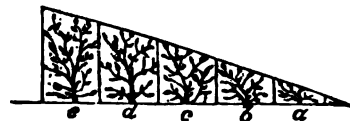


FIG. 1.

flowers, say extending six or more feet wide from a hedge, fence, or building. It contains five divisions, which should be measured off in regular widths, the first one (a) commencing at the edge of the walk. Plant a with red Portulaca, b with white Phlox Drummondii, c with (blue) Ageratum Mexicanum or Rocket Larkspur, (the former not so brilliant, but more dura-

ble), *d* with (yellow) French Marigold, *e* with Double Zinnia, Sweet Peas, or some of the ornamental leaved *Amaranthus*. Fig. 2 is a circular bed to be treated in

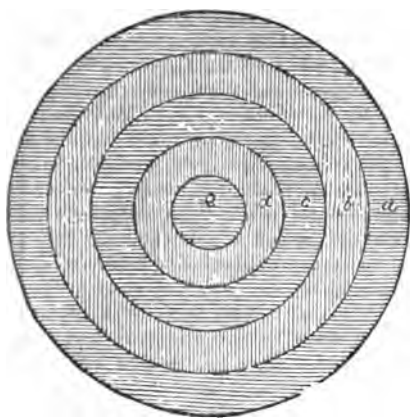


FIG. 2.

the same manner, the lowest plants forming the outside ring and the highest making the center. Fig. 3 shows a section of the circular bed and the arrange-



FIG. 3.

ment of plants in regard to height; or it will answer well for a section of a double bed, say ten or twelve feet wide, with a walk on each side. In making these ribbon beds, (and their name perhaps it would be well to say, was given on account of the arrangement of the colors like those in ribbons,) it is only necessary to be careful to set plants of the proper height, and those that will keep in flower a long time, because when one variety is over-flowering the effect is spoiled. A very pretty ribbon bed is made by taking different colors of the same flower, like *Phlox Drummondii*, *Portulaca*, *Stocks*, or *Asters*. With a little care in studying the descriptions, and a little experience, this work will become easy and pleasant.

### COSMO'S CARD.

WHEREAS:—My communication in which allusion was made to a new native raspberry, was intended for the December number of *THE FARMER*; the stock of briars that we had dug and housed was exhausted before the issue of the January number. I have now to say that it is impossible to go out in this cold, freezing weather, and dig roots. But at the earliest breakup we will sally forth, forage a supply, and send to every applicant; or parties not choosing to wait, and so advising through Box 114, Sub Post Office, Station C, Philadelphia, will have their remittances, whatever they may be, immediately returned. COSMO.

SEE OUR New Premium List on page 64. An opportunity for every one to obtain a handsome prize with little effort.

**AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.**—The second annual meeting of the above association, was held at Utica, January 10, 11. The attendance was very large, and great interest felt in the proceedings. George Williams, of Oneida county, N. Y., was elected President for the coming year, in the place of W. H. Comstock, who declined a renomination. At the evening session, X. A. Willard delivered an interesting address, extracts from which we hope to give in our next number.

**OHIO WOOL GROWERS' CONVENTION.**—The regular winter meeting of the Ohio Wool Growers' Association was held at Columbus, O., January 8. Resolutions in favor of high protective duties on American wool were adopted. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected: Columbus Delano, President; Dr. H. S. Conklin, Vice President; S. D. Harris, Cleveland, Secretary and Treasurer.

We have received "Catalogue of Small Fruits," for sale by A. M. Purdy, proprietor of South Bend Nursery, Indiana. This little manual contains a great deal that all wish to know who have to do in the cultivation of small fruits. Sent to all applicants, on receipt of ten cents. From a long acquaintance with Mr. Purdy, we can recommend him to our readers, as a gentleman who understands his business, and has sense enough to know that the way to establish a large public patronage is to deal fairly and honorably with his customers.

THE annual winter meeting of the Fruit Growers' Society of Western New York, will be held in this city January 23. Specimens of fruit will be on exhibition. Addresses will be delivered on subjects of great importance to fruit culturists. We purpose to publish a full account of the proceedings in the March number of *THE FARMER*.

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1867 IS RECEIVED.—Full of plain and simple directions for all who cultivate a garden. It should be in the hands of every lover of flowers. Sent to any address for 15 cts., by addressing James Vick, of this city.

A LARGE number of communications intended for this number of *THE FARMER*, are crowded out for want of space. They will appear in our next. We have also received a considerable number of prize essays, which after the decision of the judges, will appear from time to time in *THE FARMER*.

OUR friends will please to direct all letters and communications to "John Turner, Publisher and Proprietor *American Farmer*, Rochester, N. Y." We have reason to believe that from careless and erroneous directions several communications have passed into hands not entitled to them. We would therefore request our correspondents to be specially careful to direct as above.

ATTEND now to the hot bed.



## Ladies' Department.

### MY MITES—No 1.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "MADELINE."

WHEN I confess, as I am going to do here in the preface, that I am so much an invalid that these four weeks I have not gone from my room, and even in these "my mites," am obliged to employ *my marida* as my amenuensis, and then set out by prescribing specifics for special cases, somebody will very likely say, "Physician, heal thyself."

Yes, so I would be glad to do. But please remember we are all mortal. Even doctor's wives die, and unfortunately—sometimes fortunately, doctors themselves, go feet foremost out of society. Happily for humanity, there are few tortured victims of the infirmity that holds me its slave, and so there are few doctors competent to cure. I offer as my first mite a remedy for

#### ERYSIPELAS.

I am confident that the cheap, simple remedy will cure a large majority of all obstinate cases; my confidence coming from the fact that within these six months I have seen "Cosmo," who is a legal "M. D.," cure "without money and without price," thirteen cases of erysipelas, all obstinate, and several of them before pronounced incurable.

Begin with cranberries—always, every day, cranberries. Make a diet of them, and a drink too. Not exclusively of course; but eat cranberry sauce, or jam, tarts, pie, or pudding, at every meal. Drink cranberry ale, made by stewing the berries all to a jelly, then straining and bottling the juice, sweetening both, to make it palatable and keep. Make the ale precisely as you would lemonade. It is a pretty and delicious drink, and a great purifier of the blood, better I believe, than sarsaparilla. Delightful for a summer drink, and pleasant at all seasons.

In case of eruption, wash the surface first with tepid water and good castile soap. Then wet with the juice of raw cranberries wring out just so that it will not drip, a linen cloth wet in a solution of sulphite of soda, (don't make a mistake, and use *sulphate* of soda,) made by dissolving two ounces of the sulphite in three pints of water. Apply the cloth to the erupted part, and always where it can be done, bind it down close. When dry, wet, wring out and re-apply, continuing the application until the eruption disappears, and by continuing the cranberry practice a few days, keeping the bowels a little relaxed all the time, I believe that in nine cases out of every ten, the last lingering mite of erysipelas will have been driven from the system.

The same treatment is often efficient in cases of scrofula, indolent ulcers, old sores, chafes, and inflammatory rheumatism. But it is in erysipelas only that I believe it to be a specific.

#### MY TEA BISCUITS.

I have for biscuit and various kinds of cake baking, twelve tin cups, bottomless and made so flaring that

the top is just one-quarter larger than the bottom the latter being two inches in diameter, and the depth of the cups two and a half. These cups are soldered in three rows, as close together as the tops will permit, to a sheet of tin, thus making three rows of four cups each. With care, these will last a long time, and are far more convenient and less trouble than using separate cups. My battery of cake cups cost me fifty cents, and have done service going on five years.

For our favorite tea biscuit, I use the best flour to be had—for the dozen, one pound. Into this I put a dessert spoonful of salt, three teaspoonsful of Morris' *Azumea*—but as that is not to be had by all housewives, two teaspoonsful of cream tartar, or one of pure, refined saleratus will do nearly as well. Then work thoroughly into the flour with the hand, two ounces of either butter or nice, clean, fat drippings. It is vulgar, I know, using lard or fried meat fat, for tea cakes or biscuits; but I know it is better and cheaper than butter, and it always shortens my cakes. "Wet up" with sour milk a little warmed, and knead into a pretty stiff dough. Roll about three-quarters of an inch thick, cut out with something that will fit the size of the cups, place them separately in the cells, and bake in a moderately hot oven about twenty-five minutes, or until the upper surface is a light, pretty brown.

About three eggs beaten to a froth, and added to the material, adds essentially to the quality of the biscuit. I generally use them, but when hens decline to lay at lower rates than fifty cents per dozen, the eggs are omitted, and our tea biscuits pass out of sight very cleverly without them.

#### NEW YORK POUND CAKE.

I have this hour been reading in the last new cook book, puffed by half the editors in the country, I believe, higher than ever the authoress of this same book ever puffed cake or pastry, the following directions for making a "pound cake," which for the benefit of all uneducated cooks, I cause to be copied verbatim:—

"Ten eggs, one pint sweet cream, one and a half pounds of butter, two pounds best raisins, one pound citron, one and a half pounds currants, two and a half pounds white sugar, quarter pound each of mace, cinnamon, and ground lemon peel. Flavor with verberna."

There it is, fresh from a recommended, reliable cook book, at the very least, ten pounds of extravagant material, and three-quarters of a pound of spices, all condensed into a single "pound cake," without one word of directions about putting the materials together. Something as if one were to pitch in all in a mess, oak timber, iron, copper sheeting, oakum, iron spikes, pine planks, and forty other elements, saying to a capital cabinet maker, who never saw a ship in his life: "There you are; everything required; the best to be had; pitch in, and build me a first class steamship."

The only economical and sensible feature I am able to discover in the arbitrary ordering of this modern cook book miracle, is the absence of FLOUR, which in these days of exorbitant prices, is a saving certainly:

Such are modern, "reliable" cook books, compiled mainly by lady authors as conversant with the kitchen and practical cookery, as a cow is to command a coasting craft. So are we working women too often led in the dark by an ignorant *ignus fatuus*. If you have patience, I will present my practice in making a *New York Pound Cake*.

One pound of best flour. Beat up well four eggs, and pour into a hole in the centre of the flour, salt—a heaping dessert spoonful. Sift over the flour one pound of clean, light brown sugar. Sprinkle over it a dessert spoonful of cream of tartar. Work in first, about three ounces of butter or clean cooking fat. Then wet to a soft dough with milk, and divide into two pans, which holding a pound each, will be about half full. Bake at once in a moderately hot oven, with a piece of white paper laid over each cake, till they are done thoroughly, and the surface is a rich, bright brown.

Wishing to make the cakes something ornamental, you can wash clean a quarter of a pound of Zante currants and dab them over the surface before baking; but for common sense' sake, never put fruit into a "pound cake." In fruit cake you may.

There are a good many more "*mites*" of my kitchen practice on my mind, but believing this essay already too long extended, I will offer the remainder at our next meeting.

## HOUSEHOLD CARES—No. 2.

It is amusing as well as sometimes quite annoying, to observe the use which servants and ignorant persons make of the term "free country." I visited a little while since at a friend's house, she having just taken a new servant, born in Germany, but brought up in this country, and strongly imbued with the idea that this is a land of freedom. My friend wishing to correct some of her bad habits, spoke to her about speaking so loudly. "Well, it is a free country, I guess."

I was much amused at an incident that occurred in my own experience not three days since. I was sitting by the fire sewing on a little girl's calico dress, when without any announcement, in walked a middle aged woman, deliberately placed herself and carpet bag close to the stove, and for the first time speaking, said:—"Do you know of any one who wants a first class, tip-top woman to work, who can do anything under the sun, from spinning down to dish washing."

"You want a place?" I said.

"Yes, I do; and there ain't no place in this city wants a girl, even if you will work for your board."

"That is strange," I said. "It is generally the girls that are scarce, and the places plenty."

"Taint so now by a good deal. No, sir, those times is changed I can tell you." "Pick up your mother's thread, Bub," speaking to my oldest boy. "Making a dress for the girl, eh? That's pretty, that calico 'll wash—it'll boil—yes, it'll boil. Now, if you have any sewing to do, I can do it. There ain't nothing I can't turn my hand to. Stop that noise, Bub. You see I am a widow and an orphan. I ain't a friend in the whole world, and if I don't get a place I must starve."

"Oh, no," I said, "you need not starve; you may go to some intelligence office, and obtain a situation, or go to some benevolent institution, such as the Home for the Friendless, and stay till you get a place."

"You might as well go to Guinea. I have tried them. I ain't no hand to go to benevolent institutions. Shut up, Bub, and let your mother talk awhile. Now, don't you know of any one among your friends who would like to keep me for what I can do?"

"No, my good woman," I said. "I do not, and if I did, I do not think I could recommend you."

"Why."

"Well, if you'll not be offended, and will take it kindly from me, I will tell you; you are too free in your manners. You talk too much altogether. Do you think, I for instance, would like to engage a person to sew for me, who would order my children more than I do myself."

"Well, it's a free country, I reckon, and I guess anybody has a license to talk as much as he pleases. But I must be going; sitting by the stove wont fetch a place to me. Your husband's a Republican, ain't he?"

"Why," I said, "do you think so?"

"'Cause you got Lincoln a hanging there. He is, ain't he?"

"Now, my good woman," I said, "you do not care to take my advice in regard to being too familiar, and so you must excuse me from further conversation with you," and ringing the bell, I said to Fanny, "show this person through the side entrance."

"Now Tom," I said to my husband, after relating the incident to him, "where do such people live? Where do they find a home? Certainly in no respectable family."

"Oh," said Tom, "they find their level in time."

"It must be rather poor society, I think, and yet she did not appear so badly, warm and comfortably clad; not dirty or slovenly either. I think she lacked only that greatest of all wants—good manners."

AUNT ROSA.

## DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

**POTATO POULTICE.**—Where there is the necessity to use the poultice, no person who has once experienced the comfort of a potato poultice will again use bread. It is light, keeps hot a long time, can be reheated, and more than all, does not moisten the garments or bed clothes which it comes in contact with. Pare and boil the potatoes, strain, and then mash them with a fork over the fire. Put them into a bag, and apply the poultice as hot as the patient can bear it.—*German-town Telegraph*.

**CRANBERRIES.**—In stewing cranberries they require much less sugar if to every quart, half a teaspoonful of soda is stirred in before the sweetening be added.—*Cor. Germantown Tel.*

**HANDSOME PREMIUM FOR THE LADIES.**—By an arrangement we have made, we are enabled to offer a Lamb Family Knitting machine, to any of our friends who will get up a Club of One Hundred Subscribers at 75 cents each. Try what you can do.

## Miscellaneous.

### STUFFING—YANKEE FARMING.

"STUFF the land! Stuff the land! You can't raise anything until you have stuffed your land five or six years." So said friend W., of Belmont, near Boston, as we walked with him over his domain, viewing his immense crops with surprise. On the hill side we found a great strawberry bed in which were the *Agriculturist*, the *Triomphe de Gand* and the *La Constant* varieties. These were planted in rows five feet apart and kept perfectly clean. The runners were carefully stretched out and a little clod of dirt or a small stone laid upon them to retain them in position and make them take root more quickly. Their growth was exceedingly vigorous.

"Which berry do you like best?" we inquired.

"The *Agriculturist* is very fine but too dark. The *La Constant* does well—very well—and is an excellent berry both in quality and productiveness, but the *Triomphe de Gand* does best with me. I have had them measure seven inches in circumference. My neighbors don't like them though: say they don't do well; but the reason is they don't feed the land enough."

"How much do you realize per acre?" we inquired.

"Well, I measured off an acre of those berries down on the flat this year, and kept an accurate account of it separate. I sold over two thousand dollars (\$2,000.) worth from that acre."

We went down to see the acre alluded to. The land was thrown up in ridges with about five rows of berries to a ridge. The men were busy straightening out the runners and fastening them down.

"I never allow the plants to occupy the same bed two years in succession," continued Mr. W., "set out a new patch in the fall and have a full crop the next season. Mulch them well in the fall with fine stable manure and cover them with straw enough to protect them from the winter, and they come right along."

From the strawberries we passed on to his cabbage patch of about one and a half acres. These were as magnificent, proportionately, as the berries—immense fellows, measuring 15, 18 and some of them over twenty inches across the top, and perfectly solid.

"Monsters!" said we. "What variety is this?"

"The common *Drumhead*."

"But how do you secure such an enormous growth?"

"I stuff the land and keep it stuffed. If you want to take stuff from the land you must put it in first. That's my secret."

We passed into the squash field—a sight that would bewilder a western farmer. The great leaves and stalks stood up in formidable array, completely hiding the ground from view, while beneath them lay huge squashes weighing 40 to 50 pounds and upward each.

"Been 'stuffing' this land, too," we remarked.

"A little," said he with a twinkle.

"Next came an acre of onions—silver skins—many of them four inches in diameter.—"More stuffed land you see," said he. We walked back to the house and arden on the hill side. Pipes from a spring back

of the house brought water into his house and supplied what was needed for irrigation in dry weather.

"This hill was so rocky that I had to blow out a great deal for my garden spot."

Thus was it wherever we turned. Whatever he undertook to raise was the "biggest" of its kind. Even his meadows cut twice a year for the last twenty years, told of the heavy top-dressing laid on them just before winter tucked them up under his snowy blanket. In the house the same system prevails, not only in the domestic economy, but the piano, the newspaper, the books, pictures, shells, etc., showed that the intellectual, moral and social wants were also assiduously cared for. Friend W. has evidently "stuffed" on the brain, but as long as he has the best regulated household, the most industrious and intelligent children, the best stock, and goes to Boston with the "biggest" vegetables, berries, and fruit, to be seen in market, we must commend it as a kind of "brain fever" that pays.—*Sargo Journal*.

### A STREAK AHEAD OF NOAH.

A DISPUTE once arose between two Scotchmen named Campbell and M'Lean, upon the antiquity of their families. The latter would not allow that the Campbells had any right to rank with the M'Leans in antiquity, who he insisted, were in existence as a clan since the beginning of the world. Campbell had a little more biblical knowledge than his antagonist, and asked if the clan of the M'Leans was before the flood.

"Flood! What flood?" asked M'Lean.

"The flood, you know, that drowned all the world but Noah and his family, and his flock," said Campbell.

"Pooh! you and your flood," said M'Lean, my clan was afore the flood.

"I have not read in my Bible," said Campbell, "of the name of M'Lean going into Noah's Ark."

"Noah's Ark!" retorted M'Lean with contempt.

"Who ever heard o' M'Lean that hadn't a boat o' his ain!"

### TRIFLES.

DRIVE your cattle upon the ice, if you want cowslips in the winter.

What is the riddle of riddles? Life, for we have "to give it up."

Which is the strongest day of the seven? Sunday, because the others are week days.

The man who "couldn't stand it any longer," has taken a seat, and now feels quite comfortable.

A lady having remarked that she thought there should be a tax on single estate, an old bachelor replied: "Yes, madam, as on other luxuries."

"I do declare, Sal, you look good enough to eat." "Well Solomon, ain't I eating as fast as I can?" replied Sal, with her mouth full.

"My boy," said a fond mother, "never defer till to-morrow what you can do to-day."

"Then, mother," replied the urchin, "let's eat the rest of the plum pudding to-night."

A Birmingham revivalist, looking for recruits, found a large sized African, and asked him: "Have you found the Lord?"

Answer—"Golly, master, is the Lord lost?"

## Editor's Table.

### To Our Patrons.

WE should be pleased to take every agent of THE FARMER by the hand, and thank him personally, for the liberal manner in which each and all have labored with us to enlarge its circulation, but this being impossible, we can only return our sincere thanks to the friends who have done so nobly in extending our subscription list. The way they are sending on the names of their friends and neighbors is very encouraging to us, and in order to still further reward them, we offer on the next page, a still more liberal list of prizes than we have ever yet done. We desire to send one or more of these prizes to each of our readers, and now is the time to obtain them. Our friends can with a little effort at this time, double our already extensive circulation. We shall reach thirty-five thousand this year, if our agents continue to send on names as they have during the last three months. Let all feel personally interested in the Practical Farmer's Own Paper, and organize clubs in every neighborhood where we have but few subscribers.

Our lady readers can now, with the assistance of their friends, obtain a most liberal prize for little work. By an arrangement lately made, we are enabled to put down the number of subscribers for the Lamb Knitting Machine, which places it within the reach of all. We have already sent off several, and hope to be able to give the result of the experience of their owners in a future number. It is one of the most valuable premiums ever offered.

We specially request every reader of THE FARMER to read over our new Premium List, and endeavor to send in a Club for the year 1867. Now is the time.

### Agricultural Colleges.

It gives us pleasure to see that many of these institutions are earnestly engaged in their good work, and that others are rapidly progressing toward activity. The Cornell University of this State has elected its President and some of its faculty, and its first building is nearly ready for roofing. The Massachusetts College at length seems to be in earnest, and others are determined not to be behind. Meanwhile the colleges of Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Michigan, are prepared to receive students, and offer superior advantages to all earnest young men who desire to secure a good education. Those wishing to communicate with these institutions should address as follows:—President Abbott, State College, Lansing, Mich. President Fraser, Pennsylvania Agricultural College, Centre County, Pa. Our Kansas correspondent gives us full particulars on another page, of the college in that State.

### Bound Volume for 1866.

Will be sent to any person, postage paid, on the receipt of \$1.25, or to any of our agents, who will get up a Club of Twelve Subscribers for the year 1867.

### Inquiries and Answers.

MESSRS. EDS.:—Can any of the readers of your valuable paper give me the mode of cultivating, gathering, and preparing the Castor bean for market? Also the mode of manufacturing the oil, and where the proper machinery can be had?—*G. M. J., Brazoria Co., Texas.*

H. J.—We can send you "The Horse and his Diseases" for \$1.60.

H. C., (Mich.)—You will find full instructions on the culture of the grape, in the Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs, for 1867. Price 30 cents. For sale at this office.

MESSRS. EDS.:—Please inform me through the columns of THE FARMER, the best kind of grass or clover for a wood pasture, with a tolerably compact growth of red oak timber, from a foot to eighteen inches diameter. There are some of your numerous subscribers that can probably give the above information. An answer to this is respectfully solicited.—*C. S., Posey County, Ind.*

J. E. B., (La Crosse Co.)—You can obtain hop roots by addressing E. France, Cobleskill, N. Y. See advertisement. For culture, &c., see article page 83, March number, AMERICAN FARMER, 1866.

### The American Farmer—The Press.

WE have to thank our brethren of the press for their many valuable notices of THE AMERICAN FARMER, and should be pleased to reciprocate if our space would allow. To give half of these "notices" would more than fill our paper, but we copy below a few extracts from those recently received:

THE AMERICAN FARMER.—This monthly agricultural journal is one of the best that can be commended to the favorable notice of our farmers. It contains as much useful intelligence as other papers of the kind which come much higher.—*Democrat, Chester, Ill.*

The American Farmer is a good paper, filled with information important to farmers.—*Union, Onro, Wis.*

The American Farmer is one of the best of its kind.—*Mirror, Mt. Carroll, Ill.*

The American Farmer is a first rate monthly journal. We commend it to the farming community as a first rate paper.—*Genesee Republican.*

It is in very neat form, with substantial reading matter. Its (market) table of farm products is especially interesting.—*Shelburne News.*

The January number is neatly printed in pamphlet form, and devoted entirely to the interests of farmers. We doubt not the benefit derived from one number would be found well worth the subscription.—*Sentinel, Eastport, Me.*

The American Farmer is one of the most valuable and instructive agricultural papers in the country.—*Democrat, Coshocton, Ohio.*

The American Farmer is the best agricultural and horticultural paper in the country. No farmer can afford to do without it.—*Register, Washington, O.*

Every farmer can afford to take one agricultural paper, and we recommend this.—*Era, Savannah, Wis.*

There is no better agricultural publication.—*Inquirer, Hempstead, L. I.*

The American Farmer is a good agricultural and horticultural journal. Its extensive correspondence is invaluable.—*Journal, Pottsville, Pa.*

Worth ten times the price to any practical Farmer, or even to a housekeeper in the country.—*Christian Herald, Cincinnati.*

We could give many more such, but space forbids.

From old subscribers we receive numerous expressions of encouragement and commendation, but they are too numerous to quote from. We are especially gratified at the substantial manner in which they have shown their appreciation of our efforts to publish a first class agricultural paper.

T. A. F. R. N. Y., E. 1866.

**A HANDSOME PRESENT**

For Every Subscriber that will act as Agent for THE AMERICAN FARMER.

**NOW IS THE TIME**

TO DO GOOD TO OTHERS, AND GET PAY FOR IT.

Encouraged by the liberal manner our friends and agents have worked in extending the circulation of THE AMERICAN FARMER during the fall of 1866, we make the following liberal offers for the spring of 1867. Every reader of THE FARMER can now obtain a Premium for very little trouble. The names for the large Premiums need not all be sent in at once. The Prizes will be sent as soon as the full number is received.

The following are the

**PREMIUMS!****PREMIUMS!! PREMIUMS!!!****BOOK PRIZES.**

For One Subscriber, and One Dollar.

TUCKER'S ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER, FOR 1867. Price 80 cents. Or,  
SCRIBNER'S READY RECKONER AND LOG BOOK. Price 80 cents. Or,  
THE HORSE DOCTOR, by Knowlton,—and } Price 80 cts.  
HORSE TAMER, by Barey.

For Two Subscribers, and Two Dollars.

MINER'S DOMESTIC POULTRY BOOK, (Illustrated.) Price 50 cents.

For Three Subscribers, and Three Dollars.

TUCKER'S ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER, for 1867. And  
SCRIBNER'S READY RECKONER AND LOG BOOK,— 60 cents.

For Five Subscribers, and Four Dollars.

TUCKER'S ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER,  
SCRIBNER'S READY RECKONER AND LOG BOOK, and  
MINER'S DOMESTIC POULTRY BOOK. \$1.10.

OR

ROGERS' SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE. Price \$1.00.

OR

EMERSON'S MANUAL OF AGRICULTURE. Price \$1.00.

For Eight Subscribers, and Six Dollars.

THE HORSE AND HIS DISEASES, by Jennings. Price \$1.60.  
OR  
EVERYBODY'S LAWYER. Price \$1.60.

For Twelve Subscribers, and Nine Dollars.

RURAL POETRY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.— Price \$3.00.  
OR  
THE HORSE AND HIS DISEASES, and  
EVERYBODY'S LAWYER. Price \$3.20.

For Twenty Subscribers, and Fifteen Dollars.

AN AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY, (selected from our list of books,) worth \$5.00.

For Forty Subscribers, and Thirty Dollars.

WEBSTER'S PICTORIAL DICTIONARY, (Latest Edition.) \$12.  
OR

TY COLORED FRUIT PLATES, bound in one elegant a. \$12.50.

**SEED PREMIUMS.**

For 5 Subscribers and \$4.. \$1.00 Package of Choice Flower Seeds.

" 10	"	\$ 7.50..	2.00	"	"
" 16	"	12.00..	3.00	"	"
" 20	"	15.00..	4.00	"	"
" 24	"	18.00	6.00	"	"
" 30	"	22.50..	8.00	"	"
" 40	"	30.00..	12.00	"	"

**BAROMETERS.**

For 30 Subscribers and \$22.50 — Woodruff's Barometer. Price \$10.00.

For 34 Subscribers and \$25.50—do. do. price \$12.

For 50 Subscribers and \$37.50—do. do. price \$15.

**SEWING MACHINE.**

To any one sending us

One Hundred Names, and \$75.00, we will send a GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE, Price \$55. These machines will be sent direct from the manufactory. Or,

**A KNITTING MACHINE.**

To any person who will send us

One Hundred Subscribers, and \$75.00, we will send a LAMB FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE, Price \$65. These machines will be carefully packed, and sent direct from the manufactory. A book containing full instructions and particulars how to operate, and set up the work, will be sent with each machine.

**GRAVES' PATENT BEE HIVE.**

We will give

For 20 Subscribers and \$15.00—1 Hive, \$5.00  
" 30 " " 22.50—2 do. 8.00  
" 36 " " 27.00—1 do. and farm right, 10.00  
" 40 " " 30.00—3 do. 12.00  
" 50 " " 37.50—3 do.  
and right, with one swarm of Bees, 25.00

**CHORAL ORGAN.**

To any person who will forward us

Two Hundred and Twenty Names and \$165, we will send a A 5 OCTAVE ORGAN, Single Set Reeds, Black Walnut Case, Price \$125.

To any person who will send us

Three Hundred Subscribers, at 75. Cts Each, we will give a 5 OCTAVE ORGAN, Double Set Reeds, 3 Stops, Full Paneled Case, Price \$175. Or,

A 5 OCTAVE ORGAN, Double Set Reeds, 3 Stops, Rosewood Case, Price \$200.

Write plainly name of Post Office and State.

It is not necessary that the names be all at one Post Office, or in the same State. We send THE FARMER to any State or Territory as desired.

Remittances when practicable should be made by Post Office Order, or Draft on New York.

Postmasters, and all friends of agricultural improvement are respectfully solicited to obtain and forward subscriptions.

Address,

**JOHN TURNER,**

**Publisher and Proprietor,**  
**Rochester, N. Y.**

### Notes on the Weather, for December, 1866, and First Half of January, 1867—Results.

The first week in December was quite warm, but the second week was much colder, so that its mean, 59.1°, was 2° below the general average, 31°. The second half was colder still; the mean, 22.9°, being lower than the general average, 25.7, by 2.8°. Of the month, the general average was 28.6°, being 2.7° above its mean, 25.9°. The 21st and 22d were quite cold, and the morning of the 21st was 9° below zero, colder by 4°, than ever known here in December.

The water of the month was 3.22 inches. The snow of the days after the 17th, was frozen fast with its rain on the 24th, but some disappeared on the 26th. The next day, P. M., commenced a severe snow storm from the West, high wind and drifting snow on the 28th, when the roads were blocked up, and the cars ceased to run till the 29th, in P. M., when the railroad track was open to Albany, but not east of that in Massachusetts, till a day later. Here there fell a foot of snow, more at the East, and still more in New England. The storm hardly extended to the city of New York. Some rain and snow fell, and all soon disappeared, and on the 30th, the streets were dry in that city. But from west of Lake Erie, eastwards through the States, and over Southern Canada, to the Atlantic, the storm was severe.

The barometer gave the mean hight for December, 29.43 inches, and 29.5 inches for 1866, and 29.53 inches for the 30 years.

January gave a cold period for several days, and July gave us its hottest period in 30 years, from the 13th to the 16th, and spread its high temperature over the land. Many laborers perished in the exhausting heat in New York.

At the close of the year, the results are that the mean heat of 1866, is 46.4°, and for 30 years is 47.0°. The water of 1866 is 34.7 inches, and of 30 years is 32.6°. The greatest rain for one year, of the thirty, is 42.6 inches in 1857, and the least rain in any one month was 6.8 inches in September, 1853; and the least monthly rain is, 0.16 inch in January, 1837. One-fifth more rain fell in the last half of the year, than in the first half. In the 30 years, most rain has fallen in September, next in July, and the least in February, and the least in January.

1867.—JANUARY has given us pretty steady cold weather, with some snow often, till the places made bare by the wind of the great storm of December are covered, and good sleighing has prevailed for days. The snow had not extended much to the south. The mean of first half is 19.24, and general average 25.36°. The lowest mean is 15.9°, in 1856, and 17.8 last January. Barometer, 29.40. Not so cold as last year. Good cold winter weather, and healthy. On the 15th, the cold increased in the P. M. and evening, fell to 1° at 9 P. M., and at 10 o'clock, to 1° below cypher.

"Making an average of the markets all round, and Wilmington, Delaware, only twenty-eight miles distant, will permit a family to live about sixteen per cent. cheaper than can be done in the same style in

Philadelphia. It's the 'shiners,' hucksters and middle men that are swindling us. Why can't we all turn in with the farmers and abate the nuisance?"—*Sat. Evening Post*.

Why not? It is the middle men that are making all the money. We entered one of our largest wholesale and retail grocery stores in this city last fall, and asked the price of potatoes. "\$1.50, sir." "Will you pay that price for one hundred bushels?" we rejoined. "Oh, we are only paying 50 cents," was the reply. Here we see the farmer gets 50 cents per bushel, for plowing his land, manuring, planting, hoeing, gathering, and carting to market, while the "middle" man pockets his dollar on each bushel for going between the producer and consumer. Cannot something be done to abate this growing evil? We think there can. The principle of co-operation by united and organized effort must be entered into by the consumers of our cities and villages. We lately witnessed in this country a gigantic combination of coal dealers and carriers which raised the price to treble its real value. The people in defence organized local coal companies, sent agents to the mines, and supplied themselves at real value—as a consequence, the monopoly was broken, and coal sells at considerably less than half what it did a year ago. Now, why cannot we have "People's Companies" for purchasing and supplying flour, pork, corn, beef, butter, cheese, eggs, milk, potatoes, &c., direct from the farmers, and thereby avoid the "middle man's" impositions, in the shape of extortionate charges, short weights and measures, adulteration, and other "tricks of the trade." Let the people combine and crush out these non-producing, soulless monopolists. And on the other hand, our farmers in all cases where they can, should sell their produce direct to the consumer, and give preference to the people or their accredited agents. Let the work be commenced and prosecuted with energy, and with a curtailment of the superabundant currency, and an early resumption of specie payment on the part of the Government, the power of these leeches on the body politic will soon be disposed of.

### Our Exchanges.

#### THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HORTICULTURE.

We have received the first number of this magazine, published by J. E. Tilton & Co., Boston, Mass. It is beautifully printed on superior paper, and well filled with valuable and instructive reading matter. The long list of able contributors cannot fail to make the work exceedingly popular, and we are pleased to hear that it is meeting with the success it deserves. Such a work will be found invaluable to the horticulturist. For subscription price, &c., see January number of THE AMERICAN FARMER.

AMERICAN STOCK JOURNAL, N. P. Boyer & Co., Editors and Proprietors, Gum Tree, Pa.

A very interesting paper for farmers and stock breeders, well got up in pamphlet form, and filled with valuable communications on the subjects on which it treats. We cannot, however, commend the style of appropriating other publisher's editorials, and were surprised on looking over the first page, to find that the pub-

lishers' columns looked exceedingly familiar, and on turning to the files of **THE AMERICAN FARMER**, found that the whole, with the exception of a very few lines, was taken verbatim from our pages. They have it a little mixed up, but word for word, as originally published in this paper. Come, now, Messrs. *Stock Journal*, give us a little credit for the same, or at least the compliment of a notice among your agricultural exchanges, which we observe you have omitted to do.

**THE NORTHERN FARMER.**—We have received regularly this popular monthly, and always find it well filled with original and selected matter, particularly adapted to the wants of the farmers of the Northwest. It should find an extensive circulation and hearty support. Published at Fond du Lac, Wis., by E. H. Jones & Bro. Subscription \$1.00 per annum.

### THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, January 22, 1886.

**FLOUR**—White wheat, \$16.50@17.00. Red, \$15.00@15.50.  
**GRAIN**—White wheat, 250@300c. Red, 270@275c. Corn, 100c.  
 @105c. Barley, \$1. Oats, 50@55c. Rye, 105@112c.  
**HOPS**—50@65c.  
**WOOL**—Finner, 40@45c.  
**HAY**—\$15.  
**SHEEP SKINS**—Prima, \$1.25@2.00.  
**PROVISIONS**—Dressed hogs, 7½@8½c. Hams, 12½@13½c.  
 Lard, 13@14c. Butter, 25@30c. Eggs, 86c. Cheese, 17@19c.  
 Potatoes, 50@55c.

### New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS  
 TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, January 19.

**BEEF CATTLE**—Since my last report the prices for beef cattle have fluctuated amazingly. During one week, prices were up to a high figure, but the next week they were down. The past week, trade has been moderate. A small number of extra fed animals were offered, a few of which were sold for 17½c @ 18c, net weight. Good fair bullocks, three and four years old, that had been finished with meal, were sold slowly, at 15c@16c @ 17c, net weight. Large numbers of good cattle brought 13c@14c @ 15c.

In the New York cattle market no account is made of the hides and rough tallow. For example: if a bullock will weigh 1,200 lbs. alive, 55 or 60 lbs. @ 100, is estimated for beef, and sold, say at 16c @ 17c, on the 60 lbs. @ 100, equal to 720 lbs. of beef or \$115.20, for that bullock. Scores and hundreds of old rough oxen, thin steers, and half fattened dry cows, were sold for 10c@12c @ 13c, net weight. Fair to good steers, three years old, were sold the past week for 13c@14c @ 15c, net weight.

Cattle that are well fattened, have sold very readily; and there is still a fair demand for such animals. But farmers had better keep all kinds of stock at home until they are really fit to be slaughtered. It is poor farm management to send neat cattle, sheep and swine, to New York markets; because butchers will not pay a remunerating price for animals that are not tolerably fat.

The average number of animals received at all the yards every week, including a great many that are taken directly to butchers is, 5,745 beefs, 84 milch cows, 1,194 veal calves, 19,820 sheep and lambs, and 12,818 swine. There are no doubt, several hundreds, of which reporters never hear of.

The facilities and conveniences for shipping and selling beef cattle are now so ample and commodious, that any person can take his own stock to New York, and sell it about as advantageously as to employ an experienced drover or cattle broker, and pay him three or four dollars per head for selling beef cattle, providing they are well fattened.

**MILCH COWS**—There has been no change in the milch cow trade, since my last report. Trade is extremely dull, prices are low, and sales slow. Fair to good cows can be purchased for \$60 @ \$70 per head. Poor ones sell for \$40@50. Perhaps once a week I hear of an extra animal that was sold for \$100 or \$125.

**VEAL CALVES**—The demand for fat calves is active at 13c@14c @ 15c, live, gross weight. A great many calves are brought to market "half dressed," that is, with their head and entrails removed, and the skin on. Fat calves in this condition, sell readily at 15c@16c@17c @ 18c. This is decidedly the most convenient and economical way to transport a calf, or a number of good calves to market. Poor, half starved calves sell for 6c@7c @ 8c @ 9c, live weight. Very young calves one day old, bring \$2@3 each.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS**—Since my last report, the prices have fluctuated and been quite unsteady. The past week trade has been quite fair. Real fat sheep, such as our best farmers slaughter for their own tables, have sold for 11c@12c @ 13c, live, gross weight. But I have seen only a few that were sold for those prices. Most of the sheep that are brought to market, are only in fair, store condition. Scores of them are spring-poor, which would not bring 8c @ 9c @ 10c, if sold separately. But a few poor ones and a lot of fat ones are weighed together for about 5c@6c @ 7c, live weight. The last time I was at the sheep market, I saw them weighing a drove of American Merinos, for 6c @ 7c, live, gross weight, eight of which would weigh about 700 lbs. Thin sheep sell for about 4c @ 5c. A lot of good fat wethers would bring 7c @ 8c @ 9c, live, gross weight.

**SWINE**—The swine market is down. The arrivals for the past week number 20,432, besides hundreds that I, nor other reporters have been able to get any account of, as they are brought in from the country, and scattered about the city by peddlers. The number here given embraces only those that are brought alive to the slaughter houses. The market has been very unsteady for the past few weeks. At the present writing, the best Western corn fed hogs, are selling at 7c@7½c @ 8c, live, gross weight. Common to rough pork, 6c@6½c @ 7c, live, gross weight. The best hogs dressed, bring 8c@8½c. But sales are slow at these figures. The supply is fully equal to the requirements of the trade. There is no prospect that prices for some time will advance much, if any at all, beyond the present figures. Dealers expect lower prices rather than higher.

**APPLES**—Are in excellent request. The best lots that are sent to commission men, bring \$6 to \$8 per barrel. I seldom see any apples in market that are offered for less than \$5.50 per barrel. Commission dealers usually charge about 50c per barrel for selling apples. In some instances, they sell for five per cent. on large lots. Sometimes they require \$1 per barrel for selling.

**DRIED FRUITS**—Dried apples are without change in prices, although some lots have been taken at 18c, but this is extreme. Peaches are scarce and quiet.

Apples, State and Western, @ 10 @ 12	
Apples, Southern, @ 8 @ 9	
Peaches, Southern peeled, @ 84 @ 85	
Peaches, unpeeled, halves, @ 14 @ 15	
Peaches, unpeeled, quarters, @ 12 @ 13	
Cherries, new pitted, @ 50 @ 55	
Blackberries, @ 20 @ 24	
Raspberries, @ 46 @ 48	
Plums, @ 34 @ 35	

**COAL**—Poor people can have a glorious jubilee now, as coal is cheap, and likely to continue so. Immense quantities of coal are delivered in New York and Brooklyn, at \$4.00@4.50 per ton; and I see it advertised in some yards for these prices. In most instances, however, the ordinary stove coal is sold for about \$5.50 to \$6.00 per ton of 2,000 lbs., while coal is purchased, at the mines, at 2,250 lbs., per "long ton."

**BUTTER**—The butter market is literally glutted. I never before have seen such an abundant supply of butter in market at one time. Dealers and dairy men, have held back their butter for a higher price, until it is too late to obtain as much as they could have got three months ago.

Prices for good butter, have been very steady and uniform for the last two months. But dealers have to work hard to get the prices that are usually quoted. The great trouble with a large proportion of the butter in firkins is, it is very streaked; in numerous instances, some of the streaks taste strong. If a firkin of butter be of the first quality, except a small streak through the middle, the entire firkin is marked as a 25c lot. But if commission men can get more for it, so much for good success.

Although commission men tell reporters that a good quality of butter will bring 45c, they will not pay 45c; and a man may travel all day long, and try to sell it for that price. There seems to be a perfect combination among commission men to get things of the producers at the very lowest figure, and to make consumers pay as much as can be obtained of them by a system of unmitigated extortion.

Butter dealers report the price of Orange county butter at 45c @ 45c @ 46c, and they will tell you they will pay that amount. But, let a person go there with a lot of choice Orange county butter, and there will be something the matter with it, so that they cannot pay 44c. But they will pay 35c or 40c @ 41c, and sell it for 50c or even 60c @ 61c. It is exceedingly difficult to determine what can be obtained for a lot of butter, until it has been examined. Fair lots of butter sell for 30c@35c @ 36c.

**CHEESE**—The total receipts of cheese for the week ending this day are 18,990 boxes—which is quite large for the period of the season. The advance in our market has, however, drawn out every box that had been laid back in the country. The demand for export continued good, but the amount of trade is limited by

the firmness and advanced pretensions of holders. The demand for local trade is better and more active. We quote:

Factory Dairies, 1st quality, State, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	19@20
Factory Dairies, 2d quality, State, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	18@19
Factory Dairies, Western, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	17@18
Farm Dairies, 1st quality, State, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	17@19
Farm Dairies, 2d quality, State, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	16@17
Farm Dairies, Western, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	16@17
Skimmed Cheese, Western and State, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	8@14
Farm Dairies—common, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	15@16

**COFFEE**—Prices are declining. The supply is heavy. A desperate effort is made to maintain high prices. The stock of Rio coffee to-day, is 97,077 bags, sales on sight. Fair quality of Rio coffee sells for 15c@16c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb.; good, 17c@17½  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb.; prime coffee, 18c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. Java sells for 24c@25c. in gold. Maricaoibo coffee, 17c@18c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. Ceylon, 19c@20c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb.

**MOLASSES**—Trade is moderately active. Choice New Orleans molasses sells for about 70c@85c per gallon. The supply of New Orleans molasses is light, amounting to only 600 barrels. Of other kinds there is a bountiful supply, at 40c@60c per gallon, at wholesale.

**EGGS**—Receipts are light, and prices have advanced.

Jersey, Extra brands, $\frac{3}{4}$ dozen.	40@42
State and Penn., $\frac{3}{4}$ dozen.	39@40
Ordinary Western, $\frac{3}{4}$ dozen.	35@36
Western, by Express, $\frac{3}{4}$ dozen.	37@38
Canada, $\frac{3}{4}$ dozen.	38@39
Lined, $\frac{3}{4}$ dozen.	32@34

**POULTRY AND GAME**—The immense stock of poor poultry left over has been worked off, and the market now is in a healthier condition. Fresh stock is in full supply, and as the demand is only active enough to keep the receipts cleared, prices have not advanced.

## DRESSED POULTRY.

Turkeys, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	18@ 20
Chickens, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	12@ 15
Geese, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	11@ 13
Ducks, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	17@ 20

## GAME.

Partridges, $\frac{3}{4}$ pair.	75@1.00
Quail, $\frac{3}{4}$ dozen.	2.00@2.50
Venison, carcass, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	9@ 12
Venison, saddle, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	18@ 20
Prarie Chickens, $\frac{3}{4}$ pair.	60@ 70

**GRAIN**—The grain market has been, and now is quite heavy. Prices have declined, within a few days, 8c@10c per bushel, on the price of wheat. To-day there was some six to eight thousand bushels of wheat sold at \$2.18 for Chicago spring wheat; another lot for \$2.23, and still another lot of a few thousand bushels for \$2.05@3.15 per bushel. Canada White wheat, is quiet at \$3.05@3.10 per bushel. White Michigan, \$3.20@3.50. This last sold quickly; and at firm prices; still the market is fluctuating and unsteady; oats have been offered in great abundance at reduced prices. The supply is said to be heavy for this season of the year. State oats sell for 67c@68c per sacks; New Jersey oats, 65c@66c per bushel; Chicago oats, 64c@65c per bushel. The prices for barley have been very unsteady, for the past few days. Still for a good article, prices have been rather improving a trifle. The demand has been more active than usual, so that I heard of one sale of nearly 50,000 bushels of Western, for 80c per bushel. Canada barley, 97c in bond, or \$1.15 free. State barley, choice two-rowed, \$1.07@1.08 per bushel.

The trade in rye is quiet; there is not much demand for rye at the mills. The great decline in wheat flour has prevented the usual demand for rye. Fair Western rye sold for \$1.25@1.27 per bushel; State rye, \$1.27@1.28; Canada rye \$1.12 in bond.

Indian corn has been in moderate request; and the prices have fluctuated more or less, almost every day. The supply is heavy and sales slow. Western mixed, \$1.12@1.14 per bushel; Western white corn, \$1.16@1.18 per bushel; Western yellow, \$1.17@1.18; New Jersey yellow \$1.07@1.08 per bushel; Southern yellow, \$1.11@1.18 per bushel.

It is generally concluded that prices must decline still below these figures, as there is not sufficient demand to maintain these quotations.

**MEAL AND FLOUR**—There has been great decline in the prices of second rate flour, of late. The arrivals have been heavy. This has induced many dealers to sell for what they could get. In many instances, a decline of 50c@70c per barrel, has conceded to purchasers.

Yesterday there was a sale of 8,000 bbls., of Superfine State and Western, at \$9.50@10.40 per bbl. Several thousand barrels of second State flour, at \$10.40@12.40, and \$10.15@12.15 inferior Western Extra; Choice Extra, \$12.25@13.40 per bbl; St. Louis Extra, \$14.45@16.75 per bbl.

**BEANS AND PEAS**—Receipts of beans have increased, but holders remain firm. Peas are dull and unchanged.

Prime beans, Kidney, $\frac{3}{4}$ bushel.	\$3.25@3.50
Prime beans, Marrow, new, $\frac{3}{4}$ bushel.	3.25@3.50
Prime beans, Mediums, new, $\frac{3}{4}$ bushel.	3.15@3.25
Prime beans, Mixed parcels, $\frac{3}{4}$ bushel.	2.75@3.00
Peas, Canada, $\frac{3}{4}$ bushel.	1.60@1.65

**VEGETABLES**—Potatoes are higher, and in better demand.

Peach Blows, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	\$2.50@3.00
Mercers, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	2.50@2.75
Jackson Whites, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	2.50@2.75
Buckeyes, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	2.25@2.50
Dyckman, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	2.50@3.00
Chilian Reds, new, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	2.50@2.75
Sweet potatoes, $\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.	6.00@7.00

**WOOL**—Is in moderate request. The demand for manufacturing purposes rather increases. Nearly 200,000 lbs. of domestic fleece were just sold, at 45@65c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. A large quantity of pulled domestic fleece brought, some 80c, some 40c@45c, and the best 55c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. New York and Vermont wool about 50c@58c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. New England wool, 45c@65c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb; Ohio and Pennsylvania wool, 50c@55c; for medium 57c@67c for Extra; and 62c@75c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., for small lots of triple extra picklock.

Small lots of combing wools, 60c@85c. Canada wool is rather scarce; and is held at about 70c@75c  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

RATES OF ADVERTISING—\$2.50 per square, or 25 cents a line per month; one column, each insertion, \$25.00. Displayed advertisements and cuts inserted at the same rates. Special notices, 50 cents a line.

## A SUPERB NUMBER.

## THE AMERICAN JOURNAL

—OF—

## HORTICULTURE

For February, to be Published the 25th,

WILL CONTAIN

## THIRTY ILLUSTRATIONS,

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MARSHALL P. WILDER,

With a Biography.

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 THE SEASONS OF 1886 AND 1886. By Joseph Breck.  
 NATURE AND HABITS OF ORCHIDS. By Ed. C. Herbert. Illustrated.  
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 CULTURE OF GREENHOUSE GRAPES UNDER HORIZONTAL GLASS SCREENS. "Flore de Serres."  
 CULTURE OF FERNS FROM THE SPORE. "Scottish Gardener." Illustrated.  
 NEW PLANTS.  
 NOTES OF ILLINOIS STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY—OHIO POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY—HORTICULTURAL HALL, PHILADELPHIA—and EDITOR'S TABLE.

We are happy to inform our subscribers and the friends of Horticulture that the success of our Magazine is already far beyond the expectation of our warmest supporters of the enterprise. Nurserymen and others interested in the subject in all parts of the country have taken up the work of its circulation, and are daily adding materially to the subscription list, and if but the same interest be continued we will have before the close of the year a circulation only surpassed by two or three magazines or papers in any department of literature.

We promise in our prospectus to improve with each issue. The February number is our evidence thus far, and for the future we have accepted articles from E. W. Bull, the originator of the Concord Grape; Hunnewell, Elliott, Donald Mitchell, Dr. Kirtland, Solon Robinson, Flint, Parkman, Rand and others, and promises from other prominent writers, East and West, and we feel confident with the aid thus offered, to meet every expectation of our subscribers. Questions from subscribers in any department of Horticulture will receive full and explicit reply in our columns.

Thanking our friends for their efforts thus far, we would beg them to continue, assuring them that their kind assistance is necessary to carry "The American Journal of Horticulture" where we desire to place it.

**J. E. TILTON & CO.,**  
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BERRY & THOMPSON have spared no expense to furnish the best toned reed instrument that can be made, and they candidly think that every unprejudiced musician will give the preference to their

## CHORAL ORGANS.

The voicing of the Reeds of the Choral Organs is confided to a *scientific mechanic*, (himself an experienced organist), whose ear has become so accustomed to the PIPE ORGAN tone that he is not satisfied with the reedy quality found in other Reed instruments; and by a series of scientific experiments continued through a number of years, he has succeeded in producing a tone free from that reedy harshness so unpleasant, and given to the tone of the Choral Organ the round, pure, musical quality of the pipe organ.

THE GRADUATED SWELL, patented by themselves, and used only in the CHORAL ORGAN, is one of the greatest improvements yet made in the swell of a Reed instrument. This swell is not a LOUD PEDAL ONLY, but, as its name indicates, a SWELL, by which you glide from the Pianissimo to the Fortissimo at will, or instantly change from one to the other.

The swell is so arranged that it is managed entirely by the feet as they rest on the blow pedals, without in the least obstructing their free use for blowing, thereby doing away with the disagreeable knee stop.

THE OCTAVE COUPLER, used in the Choral Organs, nearly or quite doubles the power of the instrument.

THE MANUAL SUB BASS, introduced by us, adds much to the instrument for church use.

They employ none but the most experienced workmen, and are particular that only the best and most thoroughly seasoned materials shall be used in the manufacture of the CHORAL ORGANS; and from the Testimonials constantly being received from Clergymen who have used them, from Superintendents of Sabbath Schools, Teachers of Public Schools, as well as a large number of the best informed Musicians, there is no doubt that the CHORAL ORGANS are in all respects superior to every other reed instrument made.

The following are among the

## TESTIMONIALS.

From Prof. H. C. Timm, the eminent Pianist.

New York, October 1, 1866.

Having carefully examined your Choral Organs, I take great pleasure in recommending them to those desirous of purchasing a really good instrument. The tone is equal to the best I ever heard, being devoid of that *reediness* so objectionable generally in instruments of that kind.

The swell, managed by the feet, is also an improvement by which the most charming effects may be produced.

In addition to an agreeable touch, I think their pleasing exterior leaves nothing to be desired. Wishing you all success, I remain yours most respectfully,

H. C. TIMM.

From Prof. Ilsley, Teacher of Music in the Public Schools, Newark, N. J.

Newark, September 29, 1866.

I have used your Choral Organs, both in my house and in some of the Public Schools in this city, where I teach music, and I am happy to say that they have given, and are giving, entire satisfaction. The tone is very full and fine, the action good, and the effects produced by the graduated swell are greater and finer than I have ever heard in any other reed instrument.

Yours truly, F. I. ILSLEY.

New York, September 22, 1866.

I have examined your Choral Organs, and am delighted with them beyond expression. All the light and shade of musical expression that can be obtained in a reed instrument, is combined in the Choral Organs. I am particularly pleased with the working of the graduated swell. It is decidedly one of the greatest improvements in Reed Organs.

Yours, very respectfully, G. F. ILSLEY.

Director of Music in Rev. Dr. Crosby's Church, Fourth Ave.

WE FULLY CONCUR IN THE ABOVE OPINION OF MR. G. F. ILSLEY:

J. B. BARTLETT,

Director of Music in Rev. Mr. Ganse's Church, 23d Street.

S. F. POWERS,

Director of Music in Rev. Mr. Kittredge's Church.

H. A. BARTLETT,

Organist in Presbyterian Church, 54th Street.

From Mrs. Christopher, formerly Miss Marion McGregor, the accomplished Organist of the Broadway Tabernacle Church, N. Y.

JANUARY 5, 1867.

Your Choral Organ affords me real enjoyment. I find none of the harshness so common to reed instruments, but a mellowness and fullness of tone, which combined with its variety of resource and delicacy of touch, make it an excellent substitute for the pipe organ. The Diapason indeed reminds me of an open Diapason, particularly as a solo stop.

The graduated swell deserves particular commendation. It differs in a marked degree from anything I have ever heard, and is very effective.

The Choral Organ, I think only needs to be known to be the most popular instrument of its kind before the public.

Respectfully yours, MARION CHRISTOPHER.

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## Black Walnut, Oil Finished

5 Octave Portable Single Set Reeds.....	\$100.00
5 Octave Portable Double Set Reeds.....	125.00
5 Octave Single Set Reeds.....	125.00
5 Octave Double Set Reeds, Two Stops, half paneled case.....	170.00
5 Octave Double Set Reeds, Two Stops, full paneled case.....	175.00
5 Octave, Three Sets Reeds, Six Stops, half paneled case.....	300.00
5 Octave, Three Sets Reeds, Six Stops, full paneled case.....	325.00
5 Octave, Two Banks Keys, Four Sets Reeds, Eight Stops, half paneled case.....	400.00
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## Rosewood, Polished.

5 Octave, Single Set Reeds.....	\$150.00
5 Octave Double Set Reeds, Two Stops, plain case.....	200.00
5 Octave, Double Set Reeds, Two Stops, paneled case.....	225.00
5 Octave, Double Set Reeds, Two Stops, fancy case.....	250.00
5 Octave, Three Sets Reeds, Six Stops, paneled case.....	350.00
5 Octave, Three Sets Reeds, Six Stops, fancy case.....	400.00
5 Octave, Two Banks Keys, Four Sets Reeds, Eight Stops, plain case.....	450.00
5 Octave, Two Banks Keys, Four Sets Reeds, Eight Stops, fancy case.....	500.00

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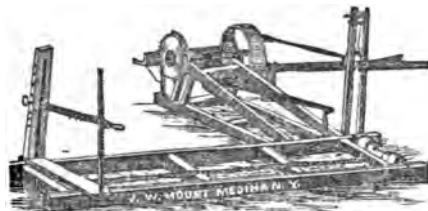
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### THE AMERICAN FARMER.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

### AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS OF

Farm Buildings, Animals, Implements, Fruits, &c.

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JOHN TURNER,

Publisher and Proprietor, Rochester, N. Y.

STEREOTYPED BY JAMES LENOX, 63 BUFFALO ST., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

# THE AMERICAN FARMER

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VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MARCH, 1867.

No 3.



The days grow longer; the returning sun  
Shines down in warmer rays upon the earth  
Still mantled in her robe of fleecy white,  
Which dons a garish hue as melting winds  
In lingering dalliance with the locks  
Of greybeard winter, sinking to his rest,  
Tone down his sternness with a softening sigh.  
To-day the air is soft and filled with balm  
That tells of spring time in the sunny South;  
To-morrow all the sky is blanched with clouds,  
And rent with furious winds and biting blasts—  
Fit emblems of a reigning power who sees  
His empire surely passing from his grasp.  
So warlike Mars, regretful, yields his sway  
To April, light, capricious, welcome still.

Belfast, Me.

G. R. R.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

PUT not off till next month what can be done this. A day gained now may prove to be of great value next month. Get everything ready for spring work, and whatever we do, let us do it with all our might and with willing hands. Let plans for the season's work be completed, and a correct account kept of all the operations on the farm from month to month, so that at the close of the year we may be able to derive some benefit by the experience of the coming "seed time and harvest."

**ANIMALS**—should not be allowed to stand and shiver in the cold, but kept warm and comfortable; if they are not, they will require double the amount of food to keep up their bodily heat, and cannot possibly thrive. Attention must be paid also to

**CLEANLINESS**—of stables and cow houses. Let them be cleaned out thoroughly every morning and evening, and the manure removed far enough away to prevent any of the rising gases from circulating in the air which they breathe. How often we see the manure piled up against the barn close by the stock! It is a bad practice, and is detrimental to health, and requires only a little extra labor

to remove it to an appropriate place. This month, if not done already, all the

**MANURE**—available, should be carted to the fields ready for spreading on the land. Place it in compact heaps, just where wanted, and as soon as the weather permits, let it be distributed evenly over the ground.

**ARTIFICIAL MANURES.**—We hope our friends will take note of the result of any experiments they may make this year with artificial manures, and give us the figures to publish in *THE FARMER*, either for or against. It is of great importance for us to know what manures give the best returns, and upon what crops and soil they are used, so that we may profit by the experience of others.

**DRAIN TILES**—should be drawn this month and the farm examined to see where draining is necessary. "The underdraining of land is the foundation of all agricultural improvement." Our esteemed correspondent, "R. H.," of Mumfords, N. Y., writes us as follows in regard to

**"POLE DRAINS.**—Having for more than forty years been constructing different kinds of drains, I have come to the conclusion that the pole drain is the most economical of any that we have put down, on all soils that are not strong. No drains should be less than three feet deep, so that the surface water filter through two feet of earth. In putting down drains, drain tools must be provided. A spade with blade fourteen inches long, and five inches wide at the top, and three at the lower end. The ditch should be fifteen inches across at the top, and three at the bottom, and smooth when it is ready for the pole. A pole five or six inches through laid in the ditch, slip on to it, and settle it down within six inches of the bottom of the ditch, then fill up the ditch and pack it down so that the mice will not make holes, to let the surface water in at the lower end of the drain. A screen should be put in so that the musk rats could not go in; if they are suffered to do so, their digging is apt to stop the free flow of the water. The pole drains that I put in twenty years ago are good now. We have made



use of cedar poles which show no appearance of decay."

**BEES.**—Very many valuable colonies have already suffered starvation, and many more will follow, unless immediately attended to. Clean out and examine every stock, and if food is wanting, set a box of honey upon the top of the hives, or fill a box with old honey in the comb. Lump sugar moistened, or white candy, placed in a honey box, is a good substitute. Never place the food in the bottom of the hive, it will surely draw robbers. A word to the wise is sufficient.

**RAISING CALVES.**—See article on this subject in the April number of *THE FARMER*, for 1866, page 105.

**GRAIN AND OTHER SEEDS.**—for spring sowing should be cleansed, and got ready this month. Select the best, and let them be as free from seeds of weeds as possible.

**IMPLEMENTS.**—should be examined and repaired, as we suggested last month, if not already done. See that the teeth of the harrows are all in, and that they are bright and ready for use. This will also apply to plowshares, which should be smooth and sharp, and free from rust. Time will be gained by attending to them at once.

### THE MORAL INFLUENCE OF FARMING.

It is well to set forth, occasionally, some of the arguments in favor of the farmer's calling in order to counterbalance the influences that are drawing so many of our people into the villages and cities.

A young man, about to choose his calling for life, should seriously consider whether its influences will probably be such as will tend to establish a good moral character. We know that such considerations generally have but little weight with the young—that the prayer, "lead us not into temptation," is seldom uttered by them, although of the highest importance; because they are so confident of their ability to take care of themselves, and resist temptation whenever they may present themselves. Yet here is where the greatest danger lies. A young man, trained to virtuous habits, will be more likely to resist any sudden temptation to depart widely from his early teachings, than those inducements which present themselves, in his daily occupations, to vary slightly and gradually from those correct principles which have hitherto guided him.

Those little concealments and deceptions so generally practiced in commerce, to make sale of goods, gradually weaken a man's integrity and diminish his self respect, and often pave the way to greater departures from virtue. A lawyer is tempted by a large fee to espouse an unjust cause, until after a while the habit of advocating the wrong makes an

inroad upon his moral character, and deadens his perceptions of right and wrong. The doctor wants patients, and the temptation to keep a rich one on his bed longer than necessary, is often irresistible. And so, if we go through the various vocations of man to obtain the wherewith to sustain life, we shall find that most of those that offer large returns for moderate efforts, exert influences that gradually sap the foundations of moral character. On the contrary, most of the influences pertaining to the farmer's calling have a tendency to strengthen his moral character.

First, he is sustained by the conviction that his calling is an honest one—that the products of his labors bless his fellow creatures—minister to their natural wants, instead of creating artificial ones. If any conscientious farmer doubts that the growing of healthy food has a tendency to strengthen his virtue, let him try the experiment of growing a crop of tobacco, and see if he is sustained by an approving conscience. Certainly it requires no argument to convince any one, that pursuing a course in opposition to the dictates of conscience, is a moral injury.

Again, the farmer's sense of justice, of equity, is sustained by the consciousness that he is fairly earning his living—that he is giving an equivalent for his food and raiment. He, who by fortunate speculation, or by drawing a prize in a lottery, or by inventing a popular medicine, is enabled to acquire a large fortune by little effort, does not enjoy the consoling reflection, that he has given a fair equivalent for his great wealth.

The farmer's life brings him daily into the closest intimacy with nature, and he is continually reminded of his dependence upon an overruling Providence, for the fruits of his labors. In every blade of grass, in every tiny flower, in the smallest insect, as well as in the noblest animal, in the creation and growth of every species of vegetables and animals, he beholds a power and a mechanism beyond his comprehension and imitation, and he knows that a greater Being than man, is their Author. When he sows the seed upon the growth and maturity of which the prolonged existence of man depends, he knows that unless the Creator gives his genial sun, and sends the "early and the latter rains," it will never germinate or grow into the bread, or fruit, or vegetable, that sustains life.

But the manufacturer deals with nature at second hand. He receives the raw material from the farmer, and converts it into the various forms, convenient for use. The merchant, still further removed from nature, exchanges the products of one country, or section of country, for those of another. His associations are more with man than nature, and he relies for success more upon his own wisdom and shrewdness, than upon the guidance of Providence.

And thus, in none of the vocations of mankind are they so constantly reminded that there is a God, as in the farmer's.

The *home* influences of the farmer's life are conducive to virtue. He partakes of his meals, and spends his evenings by his own fireside, in the bosom of his family, subjected to those healthful and refining influences, enjoyed nowhere else so well as in the society of women and innocent children. The townsman who spends his evenings in a round of amusements, attending balls, parties, theatres, operas, &c., &c., knows but little of the happiness to be enjoyed at home. He goes abroad for those social stimulants, which the farmer finds at home, and is exposed to temptations that he would be shielded from in his own family. These are weighty considerations in favor of a farmer's life. Who would not feel safer in rearing a family upon a farm, than exposed to the vices and corruptions of a city? Who does not believe that his son, trained up to a life of labor—tilling the soil—would be less likely to go astray, than if brought up in a city where he can scarcely step into the street without encountering the immoral, the vicious, and the criminal?

#### OUR EASTERN LETTER—No. 7.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT  
BELFAST, MAINE.

It has been some time since I have posted the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER upon matters and things in this easternmost section of Uncle Sam's dominions, and I will delay no longer.

The weather comes in for the first notice. We have not experienced any extreme cold, the lowest the mercury sunk being 14° below zero, but January gave much continued cold weather. The winter has been noted for the heavy and long continued snow storms, the roads being impassable for weeks at a time. On the first day of February, there were over three feet and a half of snow upon the ground, very badly drifted, and dry, and not easily trodden together. The depth of the snow and condition of the roads, greatly retarded and hindered the winter's marketing and lumbering.

The markets for farm produce have been well sustained at good prices. Our great crop of potatoes will nearly all have been exported before this is read. The price in this market where thousands of bushels are sold every day, has ranged from 45 cents to 60 cents a bushel. The variety grown and sold here is almost wholly the Foote. A few Sebecs and Jacksons are also sent out for the Boston retail market. Hay has been quick at \$20 per ton for pressed, and is tending upward, with a probability of bringing \$25 by spring, for loose, as the present winter has been a hard one for the hay mow. Apples, Baldwins, \$1.50 per bushel, and scarce; butter, 80 and 32 cents per pound, dull; beans, \$3; peas, \$1.50,

per bushel. But little doing in the stock selling line at this season of the year.

*Maine State Agricultural Society.*—At the annual meeting the following were elected officers for the current year:—President, Seward Dill; Secretary, S. L. Boardman; Treasurer, W. S. Badger; Trustees, S. Wasson, W. Percival. The question of holding a State exhibition next fall was discussed, and a resolution has been brought before the Legislature for aid towards effecting that object. The prospects are that it will be granted.

*The Maine Board of Agriculture*—held its annual session commencing on the 16th of January. The following are the officers:—President, Samuel Wasson; Vice President, Asa Smith; Secretary, S. L. Goodale. The Board was composed of able men, and its reports and discussions embody much useful and interesting matter. The annual report of the Secretary is as usual, a model of its kind, and receives the well merited appreciation of the reading farmers of the State.

*The State Agricultural College*—will probably go into operation next spring or summer. The plan of erecting separate buildings on the farm, instead of one costly structure, seems to meet with the most favor, and will probably be adopted.

*A Wool Growers' Convention* was held at Augusta on the 23d of January, and resolutions adopted, strongly advising and recommending a change in the tariff on wool, not less than that proposed by the Cleveland Convention.

*Remarks.*—Upon the whole, the prospect and condition of things as regards the farmer and his occupation, is quite encouraging. Those farm products of which we had a surplus for market, have commanded remunerative prices, and with our mixed system of husbandry, there is little danger of any great loss in any one particular direction. We raise and sell cattle, wool, potatoes, hay, and apples, for each of which our soil and climate is peculiarly adapted. Our farms are not deteriorating, but are gradually improving, and our people keep pace with the progress of events, refinement, and civilization.

**PIG BREEDING.**—An English breeder says the sow should be larger than the male, and the male the more perfect of the two, as the good or bad points of the boar will preponderate in the young ones. He says that the boar the sow may have had pigs to the litter before, has a great deal to do with the following litter. He once put a black sow to a white boar, and had some black and white pigs. He then put her to a black boar, and still had some black and white, and had to wait for three litters until he got rid of the white. He once purchased a Yorkshire boar, and ninety-nine per cent of his stock died from inflammation of the lungs. He afterwards learned that the sire of the boar died from the same complaint.

## OUR FLORIDA LETTER--No 2.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY J. D. MITCHELL,  
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

EDS. FARMER:—Not having christened my location as yet, I am obliged to leave it blank—minus. You are probably aware that a large portion of this State is not fenced or surveyed into town lots; also that a man is sometimes under the necessity of living some distance from towns. Townships are six miles square, and only numbered, not named. Consequently, as I am located twelve miles south of New Smyrna, and seventeen from Port Orange, the only points which have arrived at the dignity of a name, I can only date from *blank*, or township 19 south, range 35 east, on the mainland side of Mosquito South Lagoon, Florida East. My location is one of a half dozen shell mounds rising abruptly from the shore of the lagoon in a distance of six miles, reaching an elevation of eight to twenty feet, and containing from five to fifteen acres. One is named "Live Oak Hill," another "Cedar Bluff," and the others are known by the name of the owners. We are too romantic to think of living on Mitchell's hill, so we are discussing the question of names with as much interest as people invest in a name for the first baby. We are balancing now between Hackberry Point and Paw Paw Grove, as expressing the distinctive features of our location.

I owe you, Messrs. Editors, an apology for my apparent neglect during the two months past, and my excuse is, too much else to do that was more pressing—packing up, and moving, and being a long half of the time with no place in which to write—the journey, building shanty, unpacking, getting things ready for housekeeping, improvising tables, cupboards, storerooms, in doors and out of doors—at the same time getting those settled who came with me, encouraging the homesick and despondent, and doing about the work of four men, with no patent labor-saving helps or common conveniences to enable you to work in a decently comfortable way. Since getting myself and others sheltered and wound up for business, I have been hard at work clearing and grubbing up weeds and bushes, and planting winter vegetables, at which I have worked so hard through the day, as to be unable to write when night came. Now that the most serious pressure is removed, I propose to attend to other duties that have been so long neglected.

Letters and papers from the North speak of cold weather—snow and ice; but it is impossible for us to realize such a condition and temperature. We have had three slight frosts, all within the past week, and none severe enough to kill squash and sweet potato vines. My bees work nearly every day as busily as if it were June. Christmas day was as

cold as any we have had, the thermometer being 40 at sunrise, 54 at noon, 44 at night; clear and sunny, north wind, warm and delightful out of the wind. To-day the average range of thermometer was 60, varying only four degrees between sunrise and sunset. We have had several fine thunder showers, enough to bring up seeds, and keep them growing finely, but in November and December have not lost a day's time in all, for bad weather. The rule is, warm and pleasant, and there is a great charm in the novelty of winter weather that you cannot distinguish from June, and in which you make your garden and sow your seeds, working with coat and vest off, and in a good healthy perspiration. My neighbor sent me a good water melon for Christmas, and has a good crop of squashes growing, with which he proposes to supply me through the winter. I have growing peas, cabbages, tomatoes, beets, potatoes, &c., planted since I came here, about the 1st of December. They ought to have been planted in October or September, and though they will do well enough now, they will be later. Melons, corn, beans, and very tender crops of all kinds, are planted in February and March. Frosts are not unknown about St. Augustine, Smyrna, and on St. Johns River, in March, but in this latitude it is a very rare thing.

The orange crop is very fair this year, and is selling at \$1.50 per hundred—the transportation, and in fact, the whole business being so managed, as to leave no profit to any one. They have been worth \$4.00 to \$5.00 per hundred, in Savannah. Very fine lemons are raised here, some of them six inches long; limes too in abundance, but there is no attention paid to a crop for market. They are both easily raised, are very productive, and the trees are very long lived. There is another fruit here, very common, and capable of being made profitable, and that is the citron. I presume it is the citron of commerce, but the process of preserving is not understood here at all. The tree is a straggling, long, horizontal-limbed, quince-like affair, twelve to fifteen feet high, with a large evergreen leaf similar to a lemon, though larger, and the fruit is as large as a half grown Hubbard squash—knotty, yellow, fragrant, and good looking enough to be worth something. It is a beautiful sight, the wild oranges scattered among the forest trees, and glistening in the dark evergreen foliage, just as beautiful as though it were not sour enough to make a man's hair stand on end to taste them. The hommocks are full of them, and the facility with which they can be budded and planted into a sweet grove makes it astonishing that so few people take the trouble to do it. The process is, to saw off a wild tree of any size, let a sprout start, and then put a sweet bud in to the sprout and transplant it to where you wish it

to stand. Budding is best done in June or July. With care, it can be done in February, when the trees begin to bloom. Keeping the trees mulched with some kind of grass or weeds, and a little trimming, seems to be about all the care the trees get or need. A good many oranges crack, burst open as though they were too big for their skin. The cause I find no one to explain. When once split, they are attacked by insects, birds, and possums, and soon disposed of. I caught a young 'possum to-day poaching, and brought him home to show the children. It seems quite peaceable, but has a very bad trick of opening a long mouth full of very sharp teeth that look dangerous to officious fingers. The ears are like those of the deer mouse, pretty thin, erect, and aristocratic—the tail long and round, and as rough as a rat-tail file; the average color, a bright iron gray. The coons and 'possums, and deer, and rabbits, are so numerous as to prevent the raising of any kind of garden or field crops, without dogs to protect them, and as hunting is an amusement that kicks at both ends of the gun—saving the crop, and helping to feed the family—it does not seem quite so much a waste of time as in your better fenced State. Bears are also very plenty, and there are trails all through the hommocks, made by the varmints, as though they were used by droves of cattle. A colored neighbor of mine keeps five dogs, and is seldom without a supply of bear meat and venison, which he never forgets to share with me. He is engaged in catching green turtle for Northern markets, and I find my table most abundantly provided with turtle soup and steaks, such as would make an alderman's mouth water, as the good will offering of one of those much abused Freedmen. He is a character, and I will some day give you his history. He owns a small place which he has cleared and built upon—one of those shell elevations spoken of, and his house is never passed without a call from boats going and coming through the lagoon, and to and from Indian River. His wife gets up a most excellent meal on short notice, and the family is held in very high consideration by every one who knows it. There is not a more self-reliant, energetic, independent man in Florida, or one better and more favorably known. He is so much above the average of native whites, in everything that makes a man, that the comparison is ridiculous, and whenever Congress shall heed the voice of *loyal* citizens, south as well as north, and give us impartial suffrage, there will be few white men in this country who will cast their ballot more understandingly than this same William Scovy. I am reminded that one miserable, low down white chap here, threatens to emigrate to Brazil, if the Freedmens' Bureau sends the colored colony here as proposed. How sorry we should all be!

In my next, I will send you a table giving record of thermometer during January. I shall also endeavor to give you a few items of business prospects. Time and space will not allow it this time. I am overrun with applications from people who want to move to Florida, and have the coolness to ask me to make them a present of five dollars' worth of time in answering a thousand questions, when I have scarcely time to attend to one-quarter of the business on my hands that is by far more profitable.

## NOTES FOR THE MONTH, BY "S. W."

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

### COMMISSIONER WELLS' REVENUE REPORT.

Every farmer should "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" this masterly, intelligent report, particularly that section which is headed, "The true protection of the American Agriculturist." It would seem that Mr. Wells has been indefatigable in procuring an array of facts and the testimony of expert practical men, to enable him to make a judicious tariff bill; but as his bill recommends a tariff of duties much higher than his very logical and well sustained report would lead the reader to anticipate, we will not now enter into its merits, but only recommend his very argumentative report—plain, simple, and matter of fact as it is, without any attempt at fine writing or rhetorical flourish, but full of the plainest information on all the vital interests of the country, that now suffer or are jeopardized by the present abnormal inflated state of trade and the currency, for the evil of which he sets forth the remedies. It is evidently the aim of Mr. Wells, instead of inflating prices still higher by an increased tariff for protection, to enable the manufacturer by an approximating sound currency and consequent cheaper materials and labor, to make goods so cheap as to become an exporter, able to compete in the markets of the world with the European manufacturer, as our cotton mills did under former low tariffs, low prices, and a sound currency.

### THE ADVANTAGES OF EARLY PLANTING.

How many farmers lose the best of a season waiting for the soil to get dry and warm enough to plant! The stereotyped phrase of a slack farmer is, "No use to plant a cold, wet soil." Granted; but this only proves the vital necessity of making such a soil dry and warm by underdrains, and if clayey, by fall plowing also. Our seasons are so short and capricious, that unless we thus lengthen out the growing season, we shall rarely have large, well-matured crops. In fact, a maximum crop of Indian corn can hardly be grown, unless it has a good stand before the long, hot days of summer begin, for it is

the hot weather that makes the cereal yield. I noticed that the dent corn grown here the past season, stood still during the very cool months of August and September, and nothing saved it from failure, but early good tillage, and the extra hot weather of July. Late transplanted cabbages and beets were pinched by the very hot, dry weather of July, that saved the early planted corn.

#### FARMING IN WISCONSIN.

Here is a farmer from the prairies of Southern Wisconsin, who has over 250 acres of prairie already plowed, to be seeded with spring wheat in April. It was plowed in November and December with two cast steel plows secured to a frame, plowing from five to seven acres a day, with four horses driven by one man. The soil is of finely comminuted sand and vegetable mold, so unctuous and adhesive as to clog a cast-iron mold board, even when scoured; hence the cast steel mold board is indispensable. He says fencing is so expensive that the cattle only are fenced in, and generally in small pastures—while the grain fields and meadows are unfenced. The line between farms is indicated by stakes only, each farmer plowing up to the line, and turning a furrow against that of his neighbor. To make up for small or short pasture, every farmer grows Indian corn in drills for soiling his cattle. Lumber from Chicago and Milwaukee costs so much, that farmers generally are without cattle sheds or stables, and as many bovines are only straw fed in winter, those whose hides are not on the fence in the spring, are nearly all summer gaining the flesh they have lost. Yet there are many good farmers there who manage these things better. It appears that rabbits are increasingly numerous on these prairie farms, and very destructive; and strange as it may seem to our sportsmen, wild geese in large flocks are great depredators in the corn fields in the fall, and on the wheat fields in the spring. It would seem that they have no experts with the gun or rifle among these prairie farmers.

#### RIDGING A CLAY SOIL IN THE FALL OR EARLY WINTER.

A correspondent of *The Country Gentleman* admits the necessity of plowing and ridging clay loams in the fall, but he objects to cross-plowing and harrowing in spring, "because it destroys surface draining, and buries up too much of the soil that has been pulverized by the frost." To this may be replied that no well underdrained soil needs surface draining; it may always be cross-plowed and harrowed with impunity as soon as the frost is out, and the weather fair and dry. So far from the frost "mellorated surface being injured by harrowing, it y makes it the better for early planting. I never an early crop of garden peas, onions, beets,

sweet corn, &c., that was not planted on a soil fall-plowed or ridged; and then two seasons out of three peas planted in April will stop filling their pods, and the vines turn yellow if we have hot, dry weather, in early June; and to attempt to raise a late crop of peas in an Indian corn growing region is a bootless task. I have always found that corn planted in early May, on a heavy soil that had been ridged in the fall, never failed to be an early crop, and much heavier than corn planted late even in favorable seasons for the late planted.

#### CORN COBS AS FOOD FOR CATTLE.

Although the cobs of well ripened corn contain too much callous or woody insoluble matter, to be nutritious, even when ground—yet there is this season, thousands of bushels of cobs from soft, unripe corn, that bovines will eat even in preference to good hay. Let those who doubt it try the experiment. These cobs are not only soft and easily masticated, but they contain much of the nutriment which should have gone to perfect and ripen the soft corn.

#### THE PROFIT IN EARLY PLANTING.

How, many farmers lose the best part of the season in the spring, waiting for the surface soil to dry? Our seasons are so short and capricious, that unless we lengthen them out by early planting on drained soil, a maximum crop of corn, no matter how well manured, can hardly be had one season out of three. The last was one of the worst corn seasons we have had in many years, only about half a crop of sound corn was gathered in Western New York. Yet, all well tended garden corn ripened, and the Ohio dent was nearly a maximum crop on well-drained, early planted fields.

**TO PROTECT SHEEP FROM DOGS.**—If sheep are kept in the same lot with cows or fat cattle, no dog will disturb them. As soon as the dogs approach the sheep, they run to the cattle who drive off the dogs. A farmer for thirty years, in Shelby county, by adopting this plan, never lost a sheep by dogs, although in the same night the same dogs killed sheep in the farms north and south of him.—*Rural Gentleman*.

**ADVANTAGE OF SHELTERING CATTLE.**—From the experiments of an English farmer, it has been demonstrated that sheltered sheep eat one-third less of linseed cake, and two pounds less of turnips per day. And yet, notwithstanding this, the increase of those housed, as compared with those that were not, was as fourteen to nine. An equal, if not greater advantage, is derived by sheltering cattle.

**FIBRINE** is liquid in the serum of the blood; it is allied to albumen, and was for a long time supposed to be identical with it in fibrine muscle.

**SUBSOIL PLOWING.****Restoring Grass Lands, &c.**

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY J. L. HERBERT.

THE subject of deep plowing is beginning to be appreciated, and it will be found in their returns of crops, a large increase by its advocates over those who still adhere to the way their grandfathers "skinned" the surface. The roots of many plants run down into the soil to a great depth. Take for instance, clover. The fine roots of this plant may not infrequently be found in profusion two, three, and in rare cases, four feet below the surface; hence the advantage of this plant to the soil. An old English writer, while on this subject, wisely remarks:—"In forming a kitchen garden, I had occasion to trench a wheat field, and found the soil matted with fibers to the depth of about four feet, six inches; but stronger roots extended even below this depth, and were traced down five feet, six inches." This applies also with great force to those roots that grow down in what are called tap-roots; an instance has been revealed of carrots running down eighteen, twenty, twenty-four, and thirty inches; thus it must be apparent to any reflecting mind that *deep* plowing is highly *necessary* to give the roots full play, and the secret seems to be this, to turn up the subsoil. The deeper the ground is plowed, the prospects are increased for a crop that will pay; that is, if you manure liberally in addition. Manure is the key note in farming.

*A novel way to rejuvenate grass land.*—I shall take an old piece of herd grass that at the present time yields less than half a ton per acre, and at the end of five years, without breaking up or fresh seeding, I will raise a crop of two tons per acre. Then I will go to work to bring it back to its Eden state, though not quite; but so it will pay for mowing. This is done by permitting the crop to stand until the seed just vegetates before cutting; as by mowing the crop, as many do, when but half ripe, the roots bleed to death. This is why the second crop starts so slowly. Is this not a fact, farmers? If not, let me know, for I am one of those who seek for more light in the noble science of agriculture. I would recommend top-dressing as one grand aid in the plan of restoration. The scrapings of the yard—that as a general thing are full of sorrel and prairie grass seeds, hence unless plowed in, make one extra hoeing necessary—can be spread as top-dressing, with good results.

Another great cause is allowing stock to run over four mowing fields, and grub them all down. That causes the snow to blow off, and the grass roots to freeze. It would be money in the pockets of the farmers if they were to buy hay in the spring, and

keep stock confined, rather than to have them trampling over the mowing fields. Many farmers have to "bout face" as to their present slack system of farming, or they will leave a heritage to their sons that will be like self-righteousness—the more they have, the poorer they will be.

**SELECTING SHEEP.**—The most approved form in a sheep is general roundness of shape and fineness of bone. The chest should be broad, the ribs well arched, the back and loins, broad, flat and strait; the limbs should be short in proportion to the body, the head small, the ears thin, the skin soft and elastic, the wool soft to the touch, thick, and coming well forward to the face, but not covering it. The face and forehead should be clothed with short hair, and the eyes should have a lively expression.—*Ed.*

**DRY HAY FOR COWS IN SUMMER.**—Cows sometimes get a surfeit of grass, especially in wet, warm weather, when the grass is succulent and rich. This feed distends the bowels uncomfortably. An armful of dry hay once a day will serve to absorb some of this moisture, and benefit the cow in several respects.

AN ounce of isinglass to each gallon, first dissolved in hot wine, then bung up cask and shake thoroughly. The above will settle blackberry wine.

**DAIRYMEN'S CONVENTION.****Address of X. A. Willard.**

MR. WILLARD commenced his address by referring to the action of the convention last year in regard to sending an agent to Europe. He was not insensible to the honor of having been selected to go abroad upon this mission. It was one of great responsibility, and while the tour was one of pecuniary loss to himself, it did not lessen his deep obligations to those who were active in the movement, and reposed confidence in his ability to furnish the expected information.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars had been saved to the dairymen of America in this year's sales by having timely possession of facts relating to the production, demand, and prices of cheese in Great Britain. The sales in the home markets are regulated by prices abroad. When the home markets were glutted in June, prices would have declined to from twelve to fifteen cents, had not factories been put in possession of the true condition of things on the other side. This induced factories to be firm in keeping the price of cheese at remunerative rates.

An allusion was made to the establishment of butter and cheese factories combined. Some had been eminently successful, and reaped large profits; others had failed. With the latter it was not the

fault of the system, but rather of the persons who did not understand their management. It was thus in all kinds of business. Some would prosper, while others would lose.

The dairy interest in Great Britain was large. There were no statistics in regard to the production of cheese in England, nor of the annual yield of other products. The assumed reason for this deficiency was that the English farmers were opposed to having statistics made in regard to their crops. He thought there was another reason of a commercial nature that had more weight. The English are a manufacturing nation. The country is densely populated, and is unable to supply the necessary food for consumption. Would it be policy for her to lay bare her necessities so that other nations which have food to sell could take advantage of them? Her commercial men operate with more success by having these things covered up. All are interested in having food furnished at as cheap rates as possible. When food is dear the price of labor must advance, or starvation ensue to the laboring classes. It is an object to keep labor cheap, since England maintains her supremacy in the markets of the world by underselling.

Mr. Willard gave a description of the dairy districts of England—the appearance of the country, the character of the soil, grasses, and manner in which farms are generally conducted. The dairy farmers of America had much to learn in the management of farms. English farming was vastly superior to ours. It may be compared to our garden culture. Weeds are not permitted to get possession of the soil. The English farmer uses more capital in his business than we do. His rents and taxation are often more than the whole receipts of a farm of the same number of acres with us, and yet he pays these and makes a large profit.

The speaker described the stock kept upon the dairy farms, and the way they were managed. The production of meat has become a science in Great Britain. No where in the world will you find such excellent beef and mutton. The animals are bred with particular reference to this object.

The English dairy farmers do not wear out their cows, and then sell the carcass of skin and bones, as is customary here, but when the cow begins to show signs of failing in milk she is fattened and sold at a profit. Mr. Willard described his tour through the great cheese district in the south of England, giving a particular account of the manner of making cheese in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Somersetshire. He did not think there was anything in the Wiltshire or Gloucester process that would be of any advantage to American dairymen. The cheese was generally inferior to our factory make. The quantity made annually per cow was less than in

our best dairies, but the Cheddar dairymen did better. They often made as much as 600 pounds per cow, annually. The Cheddar cheese took its name from a small village in Somersetshire, situated at the foot of the Mendip hills. It is a thick cheese, 15-18 inches in diameter, and from 12 to 14 inches high, and bears the highest quotations of any in the English markets. The shape was originated about one hundred years ago, the farmers of a neighborhood combining their milk, and making the cheese at each other's houses in turn. It is a very high character of cheese, and its excellence has never been surpassed in American dairies. The distinctive features of excellence in Cheddar cheese are embraced in the following points:

1st. Mildness and purity of flavor. 2d. Quality, which consists of mellowness and richness under the tongue. 3d. Long keeping qualities. 4th. Solidity or freedom from eyes or holes. 5th. An economical shape as regards shrinkage, handling and cutting.

A minute description of the process of manufacture was given, as Mr. Willard saw it in the Somerset dairies. He was at some of the most noted dairies in the country. Was at Mr. Gibbons, who took the gold medal for the best cheese at the International Exhibition at Paris. He was at Mr. Josiah Harding's, of Marksbury, the great exponent of Cheddar cheese making in England, and with Mr. McAdam, of Gorsty Hill, Cheshire, who has written an essay on cheese making, and was the means of introducing this process into Scotland and Cheshire. This process, Mr. Willard thought, was the only one from which suggestions of practical utility could be drawn, that would be of value for the cheese makers of America.

The leading features of the process consisted in an early expulsion of the whey, exposing the curd a long time to the air, and allowing it to come to maturity, heaped up in the tub, or spread out in the sink. This, together with the grinding of the curd, salting and pressing, differed from the process usually adopted at our factories. He thought the early drawing of the whey an advantage, since the whey often contains taints of the worst character. The sooner it could be got rid of, consistent with the necessary operations, the better it would be. The curds should undergo the proper chemical change after the whey was drawn. We can not give in brief abstract all the peculiar features of this process, or the many valuable and interesting suggestions offered by the speaker. To the cheese maker present, this part of the lecture must have proved of the greatest utility.

Mr. Willard gave high praise to the English dairymen for the perfect neatness and cleanliness of the dairies. Nothing in English cheese making struck

him with so much force and admiration as the cleanliness in which every thing is conducted. The milking is very carefully performed in tin pails. The dairy is located out of the reach of bad odors, or anything likely to taint the milk. The milk rooms have stone floors, the joints of the flagging cemented, so that no slops or decomposed milk can find an entrance. The utensils and everything about the dairy are kept as clean as the table and crockery of the most fastidious housewife. This feature of cleanliness, the speaker said, he found wherever he went, from the Royal Dairy, at Windsor, and radiating from thence all through England. He believed it was this cleanliness and the untainted condition of the milk, together with the even temperature of curing rooms, that were the leading causes of the fine flavor which is characteristic of some of the English cheese.

The cheese makers of America have a hot, bad climate, to contend with. Much of the milk in hot weather was spoiled before it reached the factory. The practice of putting warm milk in cans, and covering closely, and then taking it a long distance to the factory was objectionable; the milk should be cooled and divested of its animal odor before leaving the farm. It was a well known fact that milk right from the cow, shut up in a vessel, soon becomes putrid in hot weather. Many cheese manufacturers complain that milk, often, when it reaches the factory has a fetid, sickening odor. Here is the commencement of bad flavor. When the weather was unfavorable, with such milk, manipulated as it often is among the bad odors about the factory, it was impossible to make a fine flavored cheese. It was this putrid condition of the milk that was a fruitful cause of the early decay of American cheese.

In testing cheese abroad he had been mortified to get the taste of tainted rennet and the drippings of the stable. It was unpleasant to speak of these things, and doubtless unpleasant for dairymen to hear them, but the truth must be told. A reformation in this respect must be had, or we should never reach the standard at which we were aiming. In regard to appliances for making cheese, we were greatly in advance of the English. Our manufacture, as a whole was better. Our cheese was richer in butter. English dealers spoke in high terms of the improvement that the factories had made in the texture and solidity of our cheese. The greatest fault complained of was bad flavor. The speaker gave several other causes of bad flavor, and spoke of the injury our cheese often received by being sent off in hot weather, and put into ships freighted with grain, oil cake, or other substances, from which taints were absorbed. The outward appearance of American cheese abroad was generally good. The nicer grades of cheese stood high in the

English market. Some of our cheese was considered quite equal in flavor to the best and was richer than the Cheddar. There was prejudice against American cheese, but it was fast wearing away. As to the real merits of the cheese of the two nations, the Cheddar was the only style that could compete with us.

The speaker gave a description of the manner in which Cheshire cheese is manufactured. There was nothing in the process adapted to America. Our factories are in every respect greatly in advance of the Cheshire dairies.

The styles of cheese demanded for the trade was then discussed at length with reference to the various markets. The Cheddar shapes as a whole were most popular, though in some of the markets there was no objection to the flat cheese. The Derby shape, if of rich quality and good flavor, would command the highest prices in London.

In the matter of color, advice was given which the speaker said would save our dairymen thousands of dollars. He described the colors required in the different markets of England, and the methods employed by the English manufactories for making their celebrated liquid annatto.

Mr. Willard gave a vivid picture of English farm life, the homes of the peasantry and of the wealthier classes. He took his hearers upon Mr. Harding's farm, introduced them to the proprietor, and told them how he managed a poor farm of 300 acres, paying in rents and taxation \$3,500 in gold, and yet was able to keep up a good establishment, and make an annual profit of over \$3,000 per year.

Mr. Willard said he had no fault to find with the English. He found them a generous and hospitable people. He received many acts of kindness from some of England's most distinguished men. He spoke of the friendly manner in which he was received by Dr. Voelcker, of London; Prof. Gilbert, of Rothamsted; Mr. Frere, of Cambridge, editor of the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society; Professor Gamgee, the great Veterinarian, and many others. He was many times urged to write for the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, and had intended to do so, but the work of the Association and of his letters home, left no time at his disposal in this way.

The lecture closed by reviewing the condition of the English markets; the effect of the cattle plague in Cheshire; the English, as a cheese-eating people, and other topics, in which was introduced much interesting and useful information not hitherto presented by other writers and speakers. Mr. Willard traveled through England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Switzerland, but his lecture treated mostly of English agriculture and matters pertaining to the dairy husbandry of that country.



## OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

### ON BEES.

In the choice of pursuits, those which please at the same time that they pay, hold out a double inducement for one to engage in them. Such is eminently the case in bee culture. In what pursuit can the farmer find more pleasure than in the care of bees. The study of their habits, and the observance of the precision with which all their work is done, is exceedingly interesting. But while the care of bees furnishes a great deal of pleasure, it is also very profitable. I know, that but few persons fully subscribe to the last statement. If the old stereotyped idea of *luck* as applied to the management of bees could be exterminated from the minds of the community, it would give an impetus to bee culture, which it has never hitherto had. In my conversation with brother farmers, nothing has been more common than to hear them say, "I don't believe I should ever have any luck with bees."

Now, nothing can be more erroneous than such a notion. Seven years of experience has taught me that in no other branch of farm pursuits can one calculate on results with more definite certainty than in the culture of bees. Of course complete success need not be anticipated until one becomes somewhat familiar with the laws by which these little insects are governed. There are several excellent works on the honey bee published, which if thoroughly studied will put a person on the sure road to success.

As before observed, the care of bees is exceedingly pleasant; but somehow or other, if that all-controlling idea of profit does not entwine itself around and become interwoven with a pursuit, it soon ceases to charm, and is ultimately given up; it may be somewhat reluctantly at first, but nevertheless is quite sure to be finally abandoned. How often this has been the case with those who have engaged in the culture of bees without suitable information on the subject! I have known many persons who have bought a swarm or two of bees, set them on the stand, and then turn them over to that mysterious power they call "luck," and supposed that here their care and labor ceased. In nine cases out of ten, a year or two would find them destitute of bees, and forever after convinced that *they* could have no *luck* with bees.

Now, I propose to show that bees can be managed when their habits and the laws by which they are governed are understood, with just as much and uniform success, as cows, sheep, or any other branch of farming, and according to my experience, much more so. In the first place, we must have suitable hives. If the hive is too large, we lose all profit, be-

cause we shall get no surplus honey. If it is not of proper shape, it will not be examined by the bees when the swarm is small, and kept clear of millers and their eggs. I have found a modification of the box hive to give the best result. Size of frame, 2,000 to 2,500 cubic inches inside. Many of the patent hives furnish the best kind of lurking places for the bee miller, and many also are unnecessarily complex. Simplicity should be the leading idea in the construction of a bee hive. Any and every device for the purpose of excluding the miller from the hive should be discarded and classed with other humbugs, for such they are.

The only protection against the miller is a good strong swarm, in a suitably shaped and sized hive, in which the bees by their natural movements inspect, and consequently keep clean.

Of course, a hive should have some arrangement for securing surplus honey. Some secure it in cups and boxes on the top of the hive, and some by boxes placed at the side of the main hive. I prefer to place surplus boxes on the top of the hive within a cap which nicely fits on to the top of each hive. I might give several reasons for the preference, but it would extend this article too much. Much has been said in favor of movable comb frames; but the trifling benefit that is sometimes derived from their use is no adequate compensation for their expense. They often prove entirely useless in consequence of the bees fastening them to the sides of the hive, building comb crosswise of them, &c. On the whole, I would rather have them out of a hive than in it.

Constant attention, care, promptness, and a good understanding of their wants and necessities, are elements of certain success in bee culture. What success would attend a stock farmer if he should feed and grain his stock only when he happened to have leisure? And yet this is precisely the course pursued by many who attempt to keep bees. When their stock is thus neglected they well know what the result will be; but when they treat their bees in like manner, they wonder why they do not have better "luck"! Mark the inconsistency.

Many also get the idea that keeping bees is a "small" business, and consequently unworthy of their attention. I need only cite the numerous instances of eminent success, of apiarians in various parts of the country, to refute this false notion. An apiarian residing not far from the writer, has made one thousand dollars in a single year from his bees. I would ask how often one meets a farmer who has made an equal amount with no greater outlay of time, care, and expense, to say nothing of the pleasantness of the employment.

In spring the apiary should be examined promptly and regularly twice per week, and each hive kept

scrupulously clean. Turn each hive up, and look into it; brush out all foul matter, worms' nests, &c., and clean off the bottom boards each time examined. This practice of keeping the hives entirely clean, is an important one. No animal delights more in cleanliness than the honey bee, and without it they cannot be made to thrive.

Next in importance at this season of the year, is to see that the entrance to every hive is so small that only two or three bees can pass at a time, and see to it that they are kept so until after orchards blossom. The object of this is to prevent robberies, one of the greatest difficulties that the bee keeper meets with in the spring. After bees begin to gather honey, as they will do as soon as the orchards blossom, no danger need be apprehended from robberies. Soon after this time the swarm will require and may be allowed ample room for ingress and egress to the hives. Attention to these and many other items of minor importance, and which I have not now time or space to enumerate, will secure your bees in good condition during the most critical period of the year.

The principles of management during the swarming season which will result in the best success must be based on the natural instincts of the bees. Many manipulations, artificial swarming, &c., may be pleasing and interesting to the curious, but most practical apiarians now discard all such interference and let the bees observe their natural habits in these matters. It is an increase of trouble without any compensating benefit. Honey boxes should be placed on the hives as soon as red raspberries or white clover is in blossom, and removed as soon as filled. As an illustration of the importance of time in the height of the honey season, I would state that I have known swarms to put into their hives four pounds of honey in a single day. If the apiarian was not prepared to secure *all* the honey at such a time, the loss on twenty-five to fifty swarms would amount to no small item, and help to strengthen that too prevalent idea that bees don't pay.

I have time to mention only one more point in bee management at this time, and that is in relation to ventilation in winter. More bees die during winter from the want of proper ventilation than from all other causes combined. By properly cutting the holes on top of the hives for the honey boxes, each space between the sheets of comb may be ventilated in winter, and the cap serve as a good air chamber. By thus arranging my hives, I have never yet lost a swarm in wintering.

I will close this already too long article by stating that all my experience and observation confirms me in the belief that with proper care and attention every farmer may not only keep his table

supplied with one of the greatest of delicacies, but also realize a handsome increase from his bees with less expense and labor than an equal amount can be realized from any other farm pursuit.

Ellington, N. Y.

N. M. C.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF CUTTING HAY AND GRAIN BY MACHINERY.

It will hardly be denied in this age of labor-saving machinery, that there is an advantage attendant upon the use of such machines. Some of these advantages I propose to enumerate in reference to the subject at the head of this article. *First*, then, there is an advantage in time. By the old way of cutting with scythes and cradles, three acres of grass or four of grain was considered an average day's work, though when the crop was heavy it often fell below this; and after cutting, the crop was not in the condition in which the machine leaves it, but must needs be raked together, or spread out, (both operations being done by hand,) before the grass could be cured, or the grain bound. If the cutting be done by machinery, from ten to fifteen acres can be cut in a day, and the crop is left in just the right position for the after care, the grass being spread evenly over the ground to facilitate curing; and the grain delivered in sheaves ready for the binder's hand, thereby saving twenty-five to fifty per cent in time.

*Secondly*, there is a saving of expense in gathering the crop. Under the old system, many farmers were obliged to hire a great part of their cutting done. Now, by having a machine, their horses can cut their grass or grain, saving all the expense of cutting, and much of the expense of spreading grass and binding grain. The saving in expense being in proportion to the saving in time, we can put down twenty-five to fifty per cent on this also.

*Thirdly*, there is a vast saving in hard labor. Swinging the cradle is not generally considered easy work, and the farmer who was obliged to do it day after day, for two or three weeks, was not often sorry to see the harvest time drawing to a close. The effect was felt in the shape of wearied limbs, broken constitutions, and sometimes heavy doctor's bills.

*Fourthly*, there is a great advantage in being able to cut the crop at just the right time. If the grass is sufficiently in bloom, or the wheat in just the right stage of ripeness, the machine enables you to cut it off in a short time, without calling into requisition a score or more of cradlers. This is appreciated when it is desirable to get a crop cut before being caught in a storm which may injure it by beating out the wheat, or causing the grass to lodge. In this way there is often another saving of twenty-five to fifty per cent.

*Fifthly*, the increased value of the crop when gathered as above, is quite an item. Many a field of hay or grain has been spoiled by rain, when ready to be drawn in. The time which could have been saved by the use of machinery, would in many cases have been sufficient to get the crop under shelter.

*Sixthly*, there is a beneficial effect on the succeeding crop. Although some oppose cutting grass by machinery on account of the height of the stubble left, I consider that as being an advantage. The woody stubble of grass is of little value for hay, and a good machine will cut it as low as is necessary, if the field is to remain with grass. Cutting too low, injures the crowns of the plants, and prevents many from growing again. In cutting grain, the stubble can be left much shorter than when cut by hand.

We have, then, six reasons given for using machinery to cut hay and grain; and after an experience of several years in using a machine, I can find no good and valid objections to their use, provided the machine be a good and well-made one, which is the only kind that should be bought.

Somerset County, N. J.

F.

### THE BEST SELECTION, HABITS, AND TREATMENT, OF FLOWER PLANTS FOR PARLOR FLOWER STANDS.

ALTHOUGH not quite evident, we presume this essay is required to treat on hot house plants, or those cultivated in the parlor or sitting room in the winter. They embrace a large variety, which the limits of these remarks forbid us to speak of very extensively, especially as the habits and treatment are to be made a part of them.

We will begin with the Calla or Ethiopian Lilly, as well adapted to such culture, majestic in its growth, simple in its flower, and most delightfully fragrant, requiring a soil adapted to most hot house plants, plenty of light, and when blooming plenty of water. The Heliotrope, of which there are several varieties, is well adapted to parlor culture. Without much difference in the flower, their fragrance is noticed upon first entering the room, reminding us of the flavor of vanilla. Plenty of light and heat; but too much water is fatal to it.

The different species of Geraniums. No stand is complete without the Rose Geranium. A spare bloomer, its fragrance is in its leaf. When pressed between the fingers, it scents all around, like some poor hearts, when the hand of affliction presses upon them, emit more perceptibly love to God and man. The Pink and Scarlet Horse Shoe Geranium will bloom with care at intervals all winter, as will the Silver Leaf. The soil suitable for these is recommended in "Breck's Book of Flowers," and is

similar to most others—plenty of muck or wood earth, sand, and garden mold; plenty of light; the soil not too wet, and sprinkled with a watering pot every day or two.

The Eupatorium is a handsome leaved plant, and is now in bloom; a small, white, delicate flower, somewhat resembling the Ageratum. This plant requires much water, both on its leaves and roots. The Passion Vine is well adapted, from its climbing propensities, for the parlor, as it can be made to cover the window, or any place required, but will not bloom without a hot sun.

The different varieties of Fuschias are very beautiful in the house; yet if they beautify the winter, they cannot adorn the summer. Then there is the Oleander, of which we need hardly speak, as its requirements, nature, and habit, are understood by every amateur. The Cactus, of which there is but one species, (the crab), that blooms in the winter, is a beautiful appendage to the parlor flower stand. The Begonias, of which we have had but one species that blooms in winter, the Alba, or White flowered.

Every one wants a rose in winter, but unless under glass or professional hands, it is seldom obtained. The Monthly is better kept in the ground, if sufficiently protected from the cold. If taken from the ground and potted for winter, it is all winter recruiting, and cannot bloom. If left in the pots, insects infest them. Besides, they require a light, cool place, too much so for the comfort of the parlor; but with proper care it can be made to bloom.

The Scarlet Salvia is very beautiful for the parlor. Its usual habit is autumnal blooming; but it will bloom towards spring if kept warm, with proper care. Light is its great essential; not too much water, but frequent sprinkling of the leaves; the soil light and rich.

Flower stands, as often made, are badly adapted for flowers, too often bringing them from the light. Small brackets at the window side, or small shelves, or stands immediately under the window, do not destroy the effects of the flowers, nor deprive them of the light and warmth so necessary to their existence.

MRS. M. S. B.

Sherwood, N. Y.

### THE MANAGEMENT OF PERMANENT GRASS LAND.

As some soils much exceed others in their grass-producing qualities, it generally happens that they are selected for pasturing and mowing grounds, and as every farm exhibits these differences in some degree, it becomes a matter of interest to the farmer to devise some plan by which those portions of his land best suited to this purpose may be per-

manently retained with grass. Where the rotation system is followed, it may be continued with other parts of the farm, but should not extend to that portion it is designed to occupy with grass.

In this section of the country there are considerable quantities of low lands bordering on the rivers, which are generally used for pasturing, on account of the risk of having crops destroyed by the annual freshets. These lands furnish a good supply of pasture at trifling expense; the coating of sediment which they receive from the annual flood, serves to maintain their fertility, and when cultivated they seldom fail to yield handsome crops. The loss from freshets, however, is so great, that they are generally kept seeded to grass. One of the causes of the diminution of crops on permanent grass land, is the lack of seeding. The stock is allowed to eat the crop so close, that nothing is allowed to ripen its seed; while the constant loss of roots, by freezing out, being trodden on, or pulled out by the cattle, by insects, and other causes, soon makes the sod so thin that a half crop is not realized. To remedy this, less stock should be kept on the field, that the crop may not be eaten so close, and a light seeding every year or two should be practiced.

Harrowing or "scarifying," is also beneficial to grass lands. In the fall, after the hay has been taken off, or the stock turned off for the season, is the proper time for the operation. Take a light, sharp-toothed harrow, and drive it over the field at such a time as the soil is dry. It loosens the soil, and incites the plants to the formation of more roots.

Rolling the ground is an operation that should never be omitted. After the action of frost on the soil during the winter, and the subsequent settling in the spring, the fields are in rather bad condition. Plants are raised from the soil, exposing their roots to the sun; stones lie on top of the ground, in the way of the scythe or reaper, and the surface generally is uneven. The roller levels the soil, presses the roots and stones close to the ground, and has a general beneficial influence.

Top-dressing the land with fine manure, bone dust, phosphates, &c., is one way to benefit the crop. The continual cropping of the land soon impoverishes the field, unless artificial means are resorted to, to keep up the condition of the land. A light dressing of fine manure, applied in the early fall, is not only beneficial in furnishing nutriment for the crop, but the undissolved portions of the application protect the roots, in a measure, from the freezing of winter. Where clover is sown with the grass, an application of plaster will benefit it.

Barnes County, N. J.

F.

## CRANBERRY CULTIVATION.

CRANBERRIES, to produce best returns, need a suitable soil; one neither too wet nor too dry. A moist soil, of alluvial formation, is the only one in which they will succeed and continue productive with any degree of certainty; but to a certain extent they may be grown on upland, when suitably prepared and cultivated.

I will first briefly notice cranberry culture on the "bog" lands. If the land be wet, drainage must be provided as the first thing; ditches of sufficient number, depth, and width, must be made to thoroughly drain every part. The land then will need to be grubbed, and if a tough sod, or peaty surface, be skinned, and the sods burned and the ashes scattered, the surface made level and even, and cleared of everything that will interfere with the growth of the vine. Then cart on and spread clean sand to the depth of three or four inches, when the ground is ready for the vines. Land which is more firm is easier of preparation; less ditching will be necessary, grubbing, skinning, and sanding perhaps less; it can usually be plowed, and may turn up sufficient sand, the weeding will usually be less. After plowing thoroughly, harrowing, and raking off the roots, &c., the ground is usually considered ready for the vines which are set in stools from one to three feet apart. But a better way is to plow and harrow several times the first season, giving time between each to let seeds of weeds, &c., germinate. The following spring, as soon as the weather will admit, make the ground mellow and level, and if necessary sand it two to four inches deep; lay off the rows two and a half or three feet each way, and set the plants at the crossings, the vines soon cover the ground, and previously there is space for ample clean cultivation. All weeds and grass must be kept out till the vines take exclusive possession. In cranberry culture it is best "to make haste slowly" at the commencement, if we desire the most speedy and greatest pecuniary results.

Spring planting is preferable to any other season; any time in spring up to the last of May. For upland culture the ground should be well pulverized and made clean of weeds and seed, and then covered with two or three inches of muck, which has been exposed during winter, or with fine white sand. The plants are then set in rows, two feet apart and eighteen inches in the rows; set them three or four inches deep. Cultivate till the vines spread and get in the way of cultivation. The worm and untimely frosts are the great difficulties to be encountered in growing cranberries, and the only successful remedy is by having the cranberry patch so arranged that it can be flowed with water at a few hours' notice. Cranberries should be picked by hand, spread in hurdles made of lath, left open for the air to pass through, not over five inches thick. Place these hurdles in a room where the air circulates freely for three or four weeks; they are then taken from the hurdles, winnowed and hand-picked, throwing out unsound berries, and packed in clean, dry barrels.

The "Bell Cranberry," so called from its resemblance in shape to a bell, is of good size, and almost as dark as blood coral; and in some sections grows to great perfection. The "Cherry Cranberry," so called from its resemblance in size, shape, and color, to the cherry, is of two varieties, large and small. It is hard and very dark, or blackish crimson when properly cultivated. There are a number of other species and sub-varieties, both wild and cultivated, but not as valuable as the above for either market or domestic use.

Conn.

L. M.

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Grapes in City Yards.**

Under this head, Dr. Charles W. Ridgely writes to *The Horticulturist*, to say that he has twenty-five specimens of the most approved varieties of hardy grape-vines growing in his door yard, which consists of only thirty feet by twenty of clear space. He says that in this small patch of ground, after making due concession to domestic claims, he laid out a grape border forty-five feet long by three feet wide, and another twelve by five. He took up the stiff soil to a depth of two feet and mixed with it liberal proportions of old field-sods, street-scrappings, plaster, coal ashes, sand, etc. He then procured the choicest vines and planted them in four courses on the trellis, one above another: setting up stout posts to support the four horizontal bars; the first placed one foot from the ground, and the other above it at intervals of two feet.

Each vine has a space on the trellis nearly ten feet long and two feet in height. By careful pruning and pinching, a vine can easily be confined to this space. Should a long jointed Isabella or Herbeumont aspire to reach its neighbor on the next higher course, it may be passed behind the bar, occupied by the other and suffered to spread itself a little. The arms may be lengthened by two or three buds each season, but this must be done cautiously lest the older spurs should suffer.

**Remedy for Kicking Cows.**

Cows, says a cotemporary, seldom kick without some good reason for it. Teats are sometimes chapped or the udder tender; harsh handling hurts them, and they kick. Sometimes long and sharp finger nails cut their teats, and sometimes the milker pulls the long hairs on the udder, while milking. Shear off the long hairs, cut long finger nails close, bathe chapped teats with warm water, and grease them well with lard, and always treat a cow gently. She will never kick unless something hurts her, or she fears a repetition of former hurts. When handled gently, cows like to be milked. When treated otherwise, they will kick and hold up their milk. It is quite as consistent to whip a sick child to stop its crying, as to whip or kick a cow, to prevent kicking while being milked.

**Experiments with Manures.**

E. R. Towley, of West Berkshire, Vt., gives in *The Vermont Farmer*, the following result of experiments with different kinds of manure on corn, the past season. The land and cultivation was the same. The ground was an inverted greensward, heavily manured on the surface, and the fertilizers put in the hill. The following was the result when the corn was husked—each plot containing two rows through the fields.

Plot 1, No manure, 2 1-4 baskets of ears of corn.

Plot 2, A compost consisting of hen manure, ashes, plaster, and earth, 2 1-2 baskets.

Plot 3, Lodi Manufacturing Co.'s Poudrette, 3 1-4 baskets.

Plot 4, Rotten barn-yard manure 4 1-2 baskets.

Plot 5, Hog manure 5 baskets.

Plot 6, Bradley's X. L. Superphosphate of lime, 5 baskets.

The degree of soundness was in proportion to the yield, the last being best.

**Plant Evergreens.**

A young planter was once ridiculed by his neighbors for setting out what they chose to call a "cedar swamp" around his residence. They changed their sentiments a few years afterwards when they discovered that nearly one-half of the fuel otherwise required, was saved by the shelter from bleak winds which these evergreens afforded in winter, and that they are something more than "only good to look at." Country residents may do much towards comfort and economy by planting strong growing evergreens on the windward side of their houses. Another important use is the shelter which may be given to cattle yards; and still another is to furnish a supply of evergreen boughs for the various purposes of protection, to be used early in winter. Every farm should have a small plantation for this purpose, of which the limbs may be cut at regular intervals. These boughs are not only useful for covering ornamental shrubs and plants, but strawberry beds and prostrated grape-vines and raspberries. They also make an excellent covering for cabbages, placed in heaps with about six or eight inches of boughs laid compactly over them, with the tops downward so as to throw off the water. This will prevent the rotting so often caused by burying cabbages in the common way.—*Country Gentleman*.

**Preserving Grapes.**

*The Scottish Farmer* says the French method for preserving grapes the year round is by picking the bunches just before they are thoroughly ripe, and dipping them in limewater having the consistency of thin cream. The lime coating keeps out the air and checks any tendency to decay. When grapes thus prepared are wanted for the table they are placed for a moment in hot water, and the lime will be removed.

**Diminutive Cattle of Britany.**

Mr. Flint, in his report of the International Exhibition, says:—The little Bretagne cows pleased me exceedingly. Standing only about three feet high on their legs—the most fashionable height—most black and white, now and then, but rarely, a red and white, they are as docile as kittens, and look pretty enough to become the kitchen pet of the hard pressed mountain or hillside farmer, with pastures too short for a grosser animal. Ten pounds of hay will suffice for their limited wants for twenty-four hours and they would evidently fill a seven quart pail as quick and long as any other cow. Those pretty cows will often hold out in milk, so the herdsmen said, from fifteen to eighteen months after calving, and often begin with the first calf with six or seven quarts a day. The horn is fine, not unlike the Jerseys, but smaller and tapering off gradually, and the escutcheon or milk marks of Guenon generally very good. Good cows are held from sixty to seventy dollars a head, a fancy price of course, but I am not sure that they would not pay six per cent, on the investment as well as most "fancy stocks."

**Curing Lamb Skins.**

A correspondent of *The Country Gentleman* gives the following directions: As soon as the skin is taken from the animal stretch it tightly on a board, flesh side out;



then, before it begins to dry, I apply an equal mixture of fine salt and alum, thoroughly pulverized together, until the skin is slightly whitened by the mixture. I then take no farther notice of the skins until I want them for use, (which is always a few weeks, from the time of applying the mixture.) I then take them and thoroughly wash them in warm soap suds, let them dry moderately; and just before they are fully dry, rub them soft with my hands. After rubbing, they are soft and pliable as a kid glove, and will continue so.

Another receipt is the following, as we find it in an exchange: Wheat flour, 20 parts; alum, 8 parts; salt, 3 parts. Pulverize, mix, and rub this compound over the skin, after nailing it out tightly. In about two weeks rub the hide together and dress off with a knife.

#### **Hinderpest.**

The cattle plague returns, says *The Scottish Farmer*, show that during the week ending 22nd December, six attacks were reported to have occurred in Great Britain, being the same number as in the previous week. Thirty-two healthy cattle were slaughtered from having been in contact with infected animals. The number of animals attacked since the commencement is 253,787, and 52,528 healthy cattle have been slaughtered to stop the spread of the disease.

#### **Evergreens for the West.**

*The Prairie Farmer* states that Robert Douglas, of Waukegan, Ill., has commenced the raising of evergreens from seed on a vast scale, with the intention of supplying the demand for timber plantations and screens for the wide West. He has now some 5,000,000 plants or more growing—planted last spring over a thousand pounds of seed, besides 100 pounds of European larch seed, and has transplanted, since the 1st of July, over 200,000 plants. The lath frames used for starting the seed, occupy, we are informed, 44,000 square feet of ground, which is about one acre in extent. The kinds of evergreens most largely planted are the Norway Spruce and the American and Scotch Pines.

#### **Rotation of Crops.**

A correspondent of *The Prairie Farmer* gives the following:—For thirty years I have practiced a rotation in farming which to me is good. I put two years in grain, and two years in grass. My grass seed is mixed, and two parts timothy and one part clover, and I sow one peck to the acre. This is a good proportion for both meadow and pasture; it will keep down the weeds better than any other course that I have seen or practiced. Turn over the sod at two years old; to lie longer in some places, the grass gets out, and weeds or something else gets in, to the injury of the other crops or working of the land. The second grain crop is the best time for the grass seed to grow, for then it has the full benefit of the decomposed sod. Corn is, I think, the best crop on the sod, where the land is suitable, for corn is more easily attended and is less troubled with weeds: other crops are grown as circumstances direct. In the beginning of my experience in rotation, I tried with the two years' course one field for fifteen years without manure: at the end of the

time it was worth twice as much for farming purposes, as when I began, and to-day I think as well of it, or better, than ever. I keep as much stock as will eat up all the hay and pasture, and work up all the straw, and return the whole to the farm in manure.

#### **Deep vs. Shallow Milk Pans.**

Mr. M. A. Richardson, of Sherman, N. Y., says:—“Whether more cream can be obtained from deep or shallow pans is an easy matter to settle, without even an experiment. It takes time for cream to rise; therefore it will rise in a shallow pan sooner than in a deep one, and consequently, in warm weather, when milk will thicken in a few hours, shallow pans should be used, or the cream will be caught in the thickened milk and the skimmer won't find it. But in cooler weather, when milk will remain thin long enough for the cream to rise, deep pans are preferred by some. Even then sweeter butter can be made from shallow pans.—*Ex.*”

#### **Storing Roots.**

See that they are dry and clean, and that the air can circulate more or less among them. With ruta bagas it is especially important that they be placed in lattice cases or racks, if in cellars, so that wind from open windows may pass through them except in the coldest weather. The rotting of timbers connected with cellars, often results from imperfect ventilation.—*Country Gentleman.*

#### **Agricultural Statistics of France for 1866.**

*The Journal de l'Agriculture* says:—The agricultural statistics of France, for 1866, are not very brilliant. The corn crop is below the average. Wine will be abundant, but of very ordinary quality. Potatoes are rotting in the storehouses; in many instances fears are entertained of not being able to preserve sufficient for the next planting. Olives will furnish a better crop than was expected. Tobacco is affected with the rot. Walnuts and chestnuts have produced the ordinary quantity. The disasters of the silkworm culture add darker shadows to the picture. The cider fruits offer a valuable resource, and several special crops, such as hemp and colza, have been good. There is, therefore, some compensation for the evil, and above all, hopes for the future.

#### **Hop Profits.**

A Wisconsin correspondent of *The Prairie Farmer* gives the following expenditures and proceeds from four acres devoted to hops:

7,000 Tamarac poles at 90¢ M.	\$630.00
Setting poles, tying up vines, and cultivating	85.00
Hop house	400.00
Stove pipe, one half of press, ten hop boxes	100.00
Harvesting, drying, baling, wood, and sacking	767.00
Ten day's man and team, drawing manure from village (which cost only the drawing) to cover hops	40.00
Six months' interest on capital, depreciation on poles, buildings, &c., (15 per cent.) and 10 per cent for use of land	191.00
	\$2,213.00
Amount received for crop	\$4,460.00
Net profits	\$2,447.00

#### **Scab in Sheep.**

It is said a wash composed of steeped tobacco, turpentine, and oil of vitriol will cure this disease.

## Horticultural.

### FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK.

THE winter meeting of the Western New York Fruit Growers' Society, was held in this city, January 23, 24. The attendance from abroad was large, when we consider the bad state of the railroads, which were considerably blocked with snow. The meeting was called to order by the President, H. E. Hooker, who delivered a short address. The Secretary, James Vick, read the minutes of the last meeting, which were adopted.

During the absence of the Committee on Business, the President read letters from Marshall P. Wilder, Charles Downing, and several other members, regretting their inability to attend on account of the uncertain condition of the railroads.

Considerable discussion took place on a resolution to increase the membership fee to defray the expense of printing the proceedings of the Society in pamphlet form, which was laid on the table.

Mr. Barry later in the session gave notice that at the next meeting he would move to amend the Constitution to this effect. He also gave notice of a change of title to "Western New York Horticultural Society," and a committee was appointed to consider the subject.

The Committee on Business reported the following QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

#### GRAPES:

1. What one variety is best for Garden culture in Western New York?
2. What 2 varieties?
3. What 6 varieties?
- And what 12 varieties?
- And what variety or varieties after all our experience, offer the surest profit for Market culture?

#### BIRDS:

4. Should such species as the Robin, which is very destructive to fruits be destroyed, and what measures can be taken to protect the crop against their ravages?

#### COMMUNICATED.

5. Can Pear cultivators account for the success of Pear culture in some localities and its failure in others?
6. Can Blackberries and Raspberries be profitably grown in Monroe County, N. Y., for drying for market?
7. What distance should Grape Vines be planted in Vineyards?
8. Should the originators of New and Valuable Fruits not have the same privileges as those accorded to Inventors and Authors?
9. Should the practice of propagating Grapes from green wood cuttings be recommended?
10. Which variety of Blackberry is the best for cultivation in Western New York?

#### CHERRIES:

11. What are the best varieties for amateur, and what for market culture, in Western New York?

There was a very small show of fruit, principally from abroad. M. B. Bateham, of Ohio, sent several varieties of apples. A. D. Strong, Ashtabula, O., also sent several specimens. Levi A. Ward, Rochester, exhibited a couple of apples and a large pear from France. The pear was called "Le Belle Angevine," weighed twenty ounces, and measured nearly eighteen inches in circumference. J. W. Bailey, Plattsburg, sent some dried Adirondack grapes. John Crane, Lockport, exhibited Rogers' No. 4. F. W. Lay, Greece, a box of Isabellas. R. Rowley, of Rochester, exhibited a seedling from the Isabella, named Coriell, which originated

in Camden, N. J. The bunches were compact, and had kept well. Several members thought it would turn out to be nothing but an Isabella when cultivated for some years.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President on taking the chair, delivered a short address. He said that a review of the past year as far as Western New York was concerned, would be only a record of failure. He called the attention of members present to the importance of horticulture as a means of moral improvement, and used the term horticulture in a comprehensive sense. The progress of a nation in art and refinement is always indicated by its progress in the culture of fruit. It is through horticulture that the finest sensuous tastes receive their gratification. It brings man in contact with the purest models, thereby cultivating his taste for art. The fact that so many were willing to live without a garden was the best evidence of the fallen state of man. He claimed that horticulture was necessary to develop taste, and cultivate the minds and hearts of youth. The country home is the place where innocent pleasures should be in the greatest abundance. The husband and wife find in this employment mutual sources of pleasure and profit. Domestic duties require the care of the wife. Work in the field demands the attention of the husband. In the garden their labors and pleasures are united. He said the object of this Society and its aim should be to encourage the young to engage in horticultural pursuits.

The first subject, "What one variety of Grape is best for garden culture in Western New York?" was then taken up.

Mr. Barry said if the grower had room for only one vine in his garden, he should recommend the Delaware as the best variety.

Mr. Fisher, Batavia—How many grapes would he get from one vine? He thought the Delaware a fine grape. He had forty vines, but the robins took all the fruit last season.

Mr. Barry thought that was a fact in favor of the Delaware.

Mr. Perry, Canandaigua, said if he was in Connecticut he should name the Concord. Had not been long enough here to decide.

Messrs. Maxwell, Geneva, and Hoag, of Lockport, named the Delaware.

Mr. Quinby, Irondequoit, named the Isabella, because it had been proved, was hardy, and ripened well with him the past year, and will bear shipping.

Mr. McVean, Scottsville, said he had had some experience. He thought it would not ripen on heavy clays, and in some sections would not ripen at all. The difficulty with the Delaware was, it was slow in coming to bearing. He considered it one of the best, but the robins took all his, and they were protected by law.

Mr. Ellwanger said the Delaware comes early into bearing, and yields fruit abundantly.

Mr. Smith, Syracuse, preferred the Delaware.

Mr. Langworthy, Greece, said he should select the longest keeper, and on that account preferred the Isabella. It kept better, and could be transported.

Mr. Barry thought this consideration would hardly apply to a single vine for a garden.

Mr. Fisher, Batavia, named the Concord as the best. The Isabella could not be depended on. Half the fruit brought to market was worthless.

Mr. Brooks, Wyoming, said we cannot ripen the Isabella one year in four. He spoke for the Delaware.

Mr. Rowley, Rochester, suggested the new seedling named Coriell.

Mr. Lay, Greece, found the Concord a poor keeper—would prefer the Isabella.

Mr. Seeley, Rochester, would choose the Delaware if the birds would let it alone; otherwise he would nominate the Creveling.

Mr. Herendeen, Macedon, moved that a vote be taken, when the Delaware was found to be the first choice by a large majority.

On the second question, "What two varieties?"

Mr. Younglove said he would prefer the Diana. It was a fine keeper, even only half ripe—would keep as easily as apples. He thought it would ripen when the Isabella falls.

Mr. Barry named the Isabella.

Mr. Warner, Brighton, nominated the Diana as one of the best garden varieties. When partially ripe, it is far ahead of the Isabella.

Mr. Younglove—If restricted to one variety would choose the Diana.

Mr. Warner said the Diana did not suffer as much as the Delaware from the depredations of birds.

Mr. Crane, of Lockport, named the Diana to succeed the Delaware. It is a long keeper.

Mr. Farley, Union Springs, mentioned the Creveling. The only objection to it was the straggling bunches—would put the Creveling first, Diana second.

Mr. Larrowe, Hammondsport, thought the Hartford Prolific would be the best. The birds had not troubled them. The Delaware did not do well with them. It was troubled with disease—would put the Diana and Isabella before the Delaware for the garden.

Mr. Griffith, Northeast, Pa., said we want, first a grape that will ripen, next of fine quality, and a reasonable bearer. He thought the Delaware pre-eminent, the Diana next. He had no hesitation in saying the Iona was better than any. It was early, and a good keeper.

Mr. Moody, Lockport, named the Delaware, but said it was hard to save the fruit from the robins. He would name the Diana next. If planted on a hard, poor clay, without any manure, it would ripen well and keep to the first of May. Had great hopes of the Iona. He thought the Isabella the best black grape yet tested.

Mr. Griffith said the Diana must be on a poor soil—one directly opposite to what the Delaware requires. The vine must be properly developed, not overgrown.

Mr. Smith, Syracuse, said the Diana does not ripen in his locality. He preferred the Creveling as the second best.

Mr. Pratt, of Orleans, and others, mentioned the fact that the Delaware cracked very badly the past season.

Mr. Crane, of Lockport, thought it was owing to the wet season.

Mr. Sylvester, Lyons—My first choice is for the Delaware. Had no trouble with the birds. It is a better keeper than it has credit for. The Diana would not bear high culture, and should not be cut back too much. The Isabella does not ripen well. He offered the Adirondac as being early, a thrifty grower, keeps its leaves, ripens in good season, with him by the 22d of August. Last season the Delaware, Creveling, Hartford Prolific, Isabella, Adirondac, Concord, and Iona ripened well.

Mr. Larrowe, Hammondsport, thought that D. Sylvester was on the Greeley Committee, and was surprised that he had not named the Concord first.

Mr. Sylvester said that he was only one of six, and that the majority ruled.

Mr. Perry, Canandaigua, thought the Iona ahead of the Delaware. It would stand garden culture.

Mr. Rees, Penfield, said he had a hundred Dianas planted eight years ago, but no fruit. His Isabellas had done well.

Mr. Sylvester explained in regard to the award of the Greeley Committee to the Concord. The object of Mr. Greeley was to get a grape for the million for general cultivation. It was in their opinion all things considered the grape for the million, as it would ripen from Maine to Georgia.

Mr. Griffith spoke in behalf of the million. There had been a wrong estimate of the million. They were not satisfied with the Concord. He believed that 999,000 and a few of the other thousand were in favor of some better grape.

Mr. Fish had a single Diana planted on very rich soil, and had a good crop of fruit—so good that the robins took them.

Mr. Elliott, of Ohio, named the Clinton.

Information about the Adirondac was called for.

Mr. Frost, Rochester, said the Adirondac was the best and earliest grape he had eaten last fall.

Mr. Hoag said it ripened early.

Mr. Langworthy—One of the best.

Mr. Ellwanger—First to ripen with us.

Mr. Elliot, Cleveland, said it was perfectly hardy.

Several other members spoke of it as the best grape they had tasted, the earliest, good bearer, and good keeper, and the vines hardy.

Rogers' Hybrid, No. 4, was called for. Several members preferred it to the Concord, but thought it too late ripening with Isabella.

Mr. Perry spoke of No. 1 as being hardy, a vigorous grower, but ripening with the Isabella. No. 15 was well spoken of.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The discussion on grapes was continued.

Mr. Crane said that Rogers, No. 19, he considered a fine grape, flavor good, earlier than the others mentioned.

Mr. Brehm, Waterloo, spoke of the Iona. Had fruited it five years. Thought highly of it. Ripens nearly with Delaware.

Mr. Sylvester said he had fruited the Iona one year. Was well pleased with it. Fruited Iona, Isabella, and Adirondac in the same row, to compare time of ripen



ing. The Adirondac was a few days earlier than the Israella, and Iona a little later.

Mr. Crane was disappointed in time of ripening. Thought a good deal of it.

Mr. Bushnell found it successful wherever the Delaware was. It was free from mildew, and a strong grower. He said it had been layered so extensively that it had injured the fruit.

Mr. Rowley said he had fruited Iona two years, and found it little later than the Delaware. He found it hardy, and considered it the finest grape he ever tasted.

Mr. Bronson, Geneva, said it was about the same time as Delaware, and of very fine quality.

Mr. Elliott said it was ten days earlier than Catawba, moderately vigorous.

Mr. Griffith said he had seen it fruited at a good many points, found no difference whether protected or exposed. Thought it a good wine grape.

Mr. Brooks, Wyoming, protested against the practice of nurserymen sending out worthless vines. He had put in four dollars for two Ionas, and thought there was no life in them when he got them.

Messrs. Barry and Griffith defended the nurserymen, and said it was through them that all the new varieties had been introduced. They thought amateurs did not take proper care of their vines.

The Coriell being called for, Mr. Rowley gave a short description of it. He said it originated in New Jersey, six years ago—was a very vigorous grower, bunches compact, and a long keeper.

Mr. Elliott desired information on Arnold's No. 1. None of the members knew anything about it.

Mr. Crane asked for information on Allen's Hybrid.

All agreed that it mildews and rots badly.

The Israella was called for.

Mr. Bushnell said it was a strong grower. Ripe 20th of August, and one of the best black grapes we have.

Mr. Brehm—Bunches very fine, very productive, quality better than Hartford Prolific.

Messrs. Rowley, Sylvester, and others, spoke well of it, but Mr. Griffith thought it lacked sprightliness.

Ives' Seedling.—Mr. Elliott said it was growing in favor; did not think much of it—thought it was second class for the table or wine.

The Clinton was next called for.

Mr. Griffith thought it would be valuable for a wine grape, if we could get fruit. Had never succeeded in raising any.

Mr. Lay said it was no earlier than Isabella.

Mr. Sylvester—When well ripe will keep till February.

Diana Hamburg.—Mr. Moore, Brighton, spoke of this grape. Vine a slow grower, and forms large buds. The leaf mildews a little. Had stood uninjured through the winter unprotected. Ripens ten days earlier than the Diana.

Creveling.—Mr. Smith, Syracuse. Think highly of it.

Mr. Thomas—Think it a very fine grape.

Mr. Sylvester said he had fruited it five years; hardy, good flavor, but the bunches very irregular.

Mr. Barry—Consider it a very valuable grape.

Mr. Little—One of the best. Think it sets more spact with age.

Mr. Bronson—Said he saw it side by side with the Concord, and the bunches were very fine and compact.

Mr. Younglove never saw any close, compact bunches, except where it was set alternately with the Catawba; then it was very fine.

The Tokalon was voted a very fair grape, but too much subject to disease to warrant cultivation.

The Lydia grape, a chance seedling, originated on Kelley's Island. The berries are sweet and rich, but not a good bearer. The color is a greenish white.

The Motel grape makes a very fine wine. It was propagated by Mr. Carpenter, of Kelley's Island, and if it had been started in the East, Mr. Griffith thought it would have rivalled the Iona.

The Walter grape, which carried off the prize at Cincinnati, was thought by Mr. Griffith and others, to be little different from, if not the Diana.

Others spoke of it as a very sweet grape. Dr. Sylvester thought it entirely different from any other grape. The skin was very thick, but would bear chewing, and he thought would dry down to a sweet raisin.

(Concluded in the April number.)

## THE GARDEN IN MARCH.

In the month of March the gardener's active labors commence in the more northerly States of our Union. In the warmer latitudes, the same operations began in January or February. We cannot say, at present, whether *out-door* garden culture will commence this month or not, as that depends more upon the condition of the soil, than upon the date, but at any rate it is time to start the *hot beds*.

In the February number, we gave directions for making the hot bed. Where operations are on too small a scale to require more than one, it is a good plan to put a partition through it, so as to plant those which require the greatest heat on one side, and those that do better with a moderate heat on the other. Cabbages, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, &c., will not bear a very high temperature, but tomatoes, peppers, egg plant, cucumbers, and melons flourish best under a pretty strong heat. The first class will bear transplanting earlier than the latter, and should be sown first.

Seeds should be sown in hot beds, in rows about three inches apart, excepting cucumbers and melons, which must be sown either in pots, or on inverted soda, to facilitate transplanting. Three or four inch pots, or tough soda, four to six inches square, and three inches thick, should be used.

**VARIETIES FOR THE HOT BED.**—Early Dwarf York, Early Large York, Early Wakefield, Sugar Loaf, Cabbage; Early Erfurt, Early Paris, Cauliflower; Early White Solid, Turner's Dwarf White, Celery; Early Tennis Ball, Curled Silesian, Victoria Cabbage, Frankfort, Lettuce; Early Smooth Red, Fejee, Tilden, Pear Shaped (for preserving), Tomatoes. Long Sweet, Large Bell, Cayenne, Peppers; Long Purple, New York Purple, Egg Plant; Early Russian, White Spined, Cucumbers; White Japanese, Green Citron, Fine Netted, Muskmelon; Mountain Sprout, Goodwin's Imperial, Water-melons. We should vary the list, somewhat, for open air culture.

The hot bed should be watered frequently with water from which the chill has been taken, and through a watering pot with a fine rose to the spout. When there is any danger of freezing, the sash should be covered with mats, straw, or anything that will exclude the cold.

As soon as the ground is settled and dry, we prepare for sowing in the open ground, peas, onions, spinach, beets, radishes, and lettuce.

**Peas.**—Daniel O'Rourke, 2 1-2 feet high, Tom Thumb, 10 inches, and Early Kent, 2 1-2 feet, are the earliest well tried varieties. Carter's First Crop, 2 1-2 feet, McLean's Little Gem, 10 inches, and McLean's Advancer, are commended by those who have grown them. For a succession, Bishop's New Long Pod, 15 inches, Blue Imperial, 2 1-2 feet, and Champion of England, 4 feet, are among the best.

**Culture.**—Peas should be sown on moderately rich soil, in drills 2 1-2 inches deep, and as wide apart as the vine grows high. After they are covered, the ground should be rolled, or packed with the back of the hoe.

**Onions.**—Wethersfield Red, Early Red, Oval Red, Denver's Yellow, Large Yellow, and Potato Onion sets, are the best sorts.

**Culture.**—Soil should have been prepared for onions by high manuring, and clean culture, as it is hopeless to try to raise a good crop on a lean soil, and it costs too much to raise them on a foul one. Sow in shallow drills, 11 inches apart, and pack the surface well. Potato onions should be just covered with soil, and will mature earlier than those from seed.

**Spinach.**—Sow in rich soil, in drills 11 inches apart, one inch deep. Round, Seeded, or Summer Spinach.

**Beets.**—Do best on soil made rich in previous years. Bassano or Early Turnip, and Early Blood Turnip, are the earliest sorts. Should be sown in drills 1 1-2 inches deep, and eleven to thirteen inches apart.

**Radishes.**—Long Scarlet Short Top, and Early Scarlet Turnip, are the best early sorts; Rose Olive Shaped, and Scarlet Olive Shaped, are French varieties, promising well. Late years, the radish succeeds only in limited localities, generally on pretty light soils. Culture same as spinach.

**Lettuce.**—Sow in open air the varieties recommended above for hot bed. Culture same as radish.

The above comprise the varieties advisable to sow in March, where the ground is in condition.

## PLANTING FRUIT TREES.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY OTIS TINKHAM, LAKESVILLE, MASS.

**MESSES. EDS.** :—A great revolution has occurred in selecting fruit trees for planting. Bushy plants are now sought for. The shade which the side branches make is considered beneficial to the tree. As to the good effects of continual digging about trees, which we oppose, all cultivators are not unanimous; but most of them now abandon it after some experience, the only difference of opinion being, how many years after planting shall this style of cultivating continue? With very

low branched trees, there is this advantage that the plow or the spade cannot approach very near the trunk. Rich soil, is however, essential to good growth and good crops. This is the essence of "good cultivation."

In preparing for planting trees, the soil should be stirred up at least two feet in depth. Of course, the trees should be planted in holes only so deep as they stood in the ground before—rather higher if anything, as the soil will settle. Good, common soil, may be filled in the holes, if the natural soil is very bad; but anything applied as a manure may be stirred in the surface soil after the trees are planted. Some object to making deep holes for planting trees; as, if the soil is stiff, they become wells, collecting water from surrounding soil and rotting the roots. It is best to underdrain such soils before planting. If this cannot be done, it is best to plant such ground in the spring. The water objection is a fatal one for fall planting in such grounds.

Trees that have long stems, exposed to hot suns or drying winds, become what gardeners call "hide bound"; that is, the old bark becomes indurated—cannot expand, and the tree suffers much in consequence. Such an evil is usually indicated by grey lichens which feed on the decaying bark. In these cases, a washing of weak lye, or of lime water, is very useful; indeed, where the bark is healthy it is beneficial thus to wash the trees, as many eggs of insects are thereby destroyed. Whitewash is frequently resorted to by farmers: but the great objection is its unsightly appearance; the result is otherwise good. The great opposition to washes formerly was that the pores of the bark were closed by them. This was on the supposition that the bark was alive; but the external bark of most trees has been dead years before the time of application, and "the breathing," if so the operations of the pores can be called, is through the crevices formed in the old bark by the expansion of the growing tree, by which the living bark below has a chance of contact with the air. No matter what kind of coating was applied to the bark of the tree, it will soon crack sufficiently by the expansion of the trunk to permit all the "breathing" necessary.

**COMFORT IN SCOTLAND.**—Edinburgh has 1,530 one-roomed houses, of which 825 contain each six inmates. In Glasgow the state of things is still worse; for there the number of one-roomed houses is 2,212, of which number 1,253 shelter seven human creatures, whilst each of the other 959 dwellings has more than seven inmates. There are in Scotland 7,964 houses—if they can be called houses—without windows; and 226,723 houses of only one apartment; proving that nearly one-million of the people of Scotland, or nearly one-third of the entire population, are living in houses in which neither the comforts nor decencies of life can be secured.

THE meeting of the American Pomological Society will be held at St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 14.

THE Isabella grape flourishes so finely in Brazil, that the size and quality of the fruit is much better than in the United States.

## Ladies' Department.

### MY MITES—No 2.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "MADELINE."

#### DOUGHNUTS.

Where are the good, old doughnuts, that we used to love so when our grandmothers were girls? Or, if that is a Pennsylvania Hibernianism, then the doughnuts that we used to love so when our grandmothers, and less frequently, our mothers made them. It is only in the far east, where sensible New England housewives rule the kitchen-kingdom, and infrequently in the interior of the Empire State, among sterling old fashioned folks, that we find our favorites now-a-days. Let us rescue the almost lost art from impending oblivion. I am doing my part towards it, I believe. We have those good old-time doughnuts continually during all the cold seasons, and often in warm weather too, here at Thistlewood. In this manner they are made:—

I make up a batch of dough at night, precisely as we do for bread, only I shorten it with about two ounces of clean fat to a pound of flour, and wet with milk instead of water. Then having kneaded in as much active yeast as for ordinary bread, I set by in a warm corner, cover over with a towel first, then a blanket, or some warm, woolen cloth, and leave to rise through the night. After breakfast, and the work well out of the way, I put over the fire my kettle of lard, and while it is heating—my sponge being like a sponge—light, I roll out about three-quarters of an inch thick; then cut into slips an inch or so wide. Some of these I divide into about four-inch sections, leaving them plain. Some I draw out, and double and twist into spiral canes, while for the little folks that call in to see us pretty often, I cut out whales, and elephants, knight errants, steamships, and odd-looking, round-bodied Shetland ponies. Sometimes, to be very old-fashioned, I roll out a disc of dough eight or nine inches in diameter, and make the cuts across, not quite to the edge, and then twist the slices, so that the disc looks like a miniature causeway laid with twisted inch augurs made of dough.

When the fat is hissing hot—so hot that the dough will absorb none of the grease, I begin to fry, and hurry it through, being careful to keep up the temperature of the fat to the cooking of the last doughnut.

That's mine, and the good, old-fashioned way of making Yankee doughnuts. Nearly three-thirds of all the new, fashionable innovations and substitutes called "crullers" are sweetened, insipid, sticky, greasy abominations—no more to be compared to an honest, raised, shortened, sensible, old fashioned doughnut, than a choke cherry is to a rich, ripe damson.

#### BEST BED COVERS.

I don't mean the prettiest, dressiest, most aristocratic bed covers. But the best, because the most economical and efficient, and look well enough too, for all honest, every-day people. Not new with me, i. e.,

the institution, nor all the covers either. This is the third winter I have had them in use, and having fairly tested their wear, worth, and washing capacity, I think it but fair to tell several other people of their virtues.

I get eighteen yards, of cheap, pretty, dark-colored chintz, or calico, nine each of different colors and patterns so as to have two right sides to each cover. That quantity makes a cover three yards long and three breadths in width—wide enough for a bed. Sewing the breadths together, I lay smoothly between them, sheets of ordinary, heavy, strong, brown wrapping paper, taping the edges, and then stitch through all with colored woolen or cotton yarn, and knot the same as we tack ordinary comforters.

On the night of December 21st, the mercury standing at three degrees below zero out doors, I made an experiment that fairly substantiated all my previous experience. First, I shivered under two good, cotton wadded comforters and a pair of twenty-dollar blankets. Then laying off one comforter, I nearly froze. Then I laid off the other comforter, spread one of our paper covers over the blankets, and slept till morning, like a dormouse in a bag of feathers.

When the covers require washing, which with care need not be oftener than once a year, rip open one side, cut the tacking, take out the paper, which after the covering has been washed and ironed may be replaced, re-tacked, the one seam re-sewed; and there is the cover as nice as new, with little outlay of time and labor.

#### BEAN SOUP.

When properly made, there is no soup nicer, richer, or more wholesome. Remember, that good white beans, properly cooked, contain about ninety per cent of nourishment. So, if we make them in the right way, into a common-sense soup, the nourishment is all there; and a bowl of it, hot and nicely seasoned, will carry one longer, and more comfortably through a cold winter day, either in doors or out, than a breakfast or dinner of fried, baked, boiled, or stewed meats, with all sorts of auxiliaries that cost ten times as much.

I use always the small, white, field beans for soup; and having picked them over carefully, so that there shall be only fair, good, sound beans, I put them to soak in plenty of water at night, and in the morning, directly after breakfast, they are first par boiled ten minutes. Then the water is changed, and a piece of nice, fat, corned pork, previously parboiled also, is put in with the beans, and with it a teaspoonful of saleratus. After boiling an hour and a half, remove the pork, and prepare it for baking by scoring the rind evenly about a quarter of an inch apart, and an equal depth. Place it in a deep dripping-pan, and fill in around it with beans, skimmed from the pot, making them pretty thin with incipient soup. And being so far on the way, we may as well finish up our baked pork and beans by placing them in a moderately hot oven, and baking slowly, four or five hours.

Going back to the soup, there are to be left in the pot enough beans and bean broth to make a supply of soup for as many as are to be served. First, set the pot back where the heat is moderate, else the material

will be liable to burn at the bottom, and so spoiled. Pare, wash, and slice up thin, half a dozen, good, sound potatoes, and put them in the pot. Then make into crumbs any dry, clean, crusts of bread, or bits of crackers, and put them in to thicken the soup, season suitably with black pepper and salt, if needed; and if not too fastidious to eat onions, slice up a couple of fair-sized ones and put them into the soup ten minutes before it is to be taken up. Onions are wholesome, and add much to the flavor and richness of bean soup.

If more soup is made than is eaten at dinner, don't throw it away, or pitch it into the pig trough. That is a wanton waste. Save, and heat it over for breakfast, or the next day's dinner. Remember, that the old Revolutionary rhyme is good logic, and as true in 1867, as it was in 1776:

"Bean porridge hot, and bean porridge cold,  
Bean porridge's best when it's nine days old."

### HOUSEHOLD CARES—No. 3.

"What delicious peaches!—as good as when they came from the tree. Some you bought, I reckon?"

"Oh, no, sister Curtis; these are my own canning."

"Du tell, now! Did you have such good luck? Well, I know'd it all the time. It was those new fangled bottles of mine, that spoiled all my fruit."

"Did yours all spoil?"

"Well, did'n't spoil exactly, for I boiled 'em down with sugar, but they all popped."

"Popped," I said.

"Yes, 'popped;' you see I went down cellar to see how they was a gettin' on, about a week after a closin' on 'em, I reckon, and if there was'n't the lid out of every bottle, and the fruit all a' running over; so I just boiled 'em down, pound for pound, and made pretty good 'sass' too; but it beats me to think you had such good luck with your'n. Are your'n all as good now, as these?"

"Every one. I did up over a hundred bottles, and not one even molded; but I am at a loss to understand why yours should spoil. You boiled the fruit before bottling, did'n't you?"

"Of course I did."

"And filled the bottles while the fruit was boiling?"

"Certainly."

"And added the lid immediately?"

"Just as you say, all boiling, and sealed while piping hot."

"Well, I do not see, sister Curtis, where the trouble was. Did' you fill the bottles full—quite full, before putting on the lid?"

"Of course I did, M——, and that is where the 'curiousness' of the thing is. The next morning the jars was'n't more than three parts full. I could'n't account for it—supposed the children or some of the men folks had been at 'em; but however, I had some 'sass' that was left over, and I filled 'em up full again."

"Why, sister Curtis, you did'n't do that, did you? Do you not know that opening the bottles after they are gone cold, would spoil the whole operation, unless you had boiled the fruit over again; but all fruit when properly bottled, will shrink just as yours did when

cold. I wish you had known that, it would have been the means of saving your fruit."

"Why, Lor' me, do you suppose that is what made my fruit pop?"

"I am sure of it. The lids should never be meddled with in any way, not even after a few moments only have elapsed. The thing is perfectly plain. Heating the fruit for the purpose of expelling the air, expands it, and of course when the bottle cools the contents must shrink."

Sister Curtis is not the only person who meets with ill luck as they term it, in bottling fruit. A neighbor of mine, Mrs. Jones, insists upon it that fruit cannot be successfully bottled without being boiled at least three quarters of an hour, and half a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit. Having asked me one day how it was that my fruit retained its shape, and the juice was so clear, I endeavored to explain that she boiled hers too much, and that merely being certain that they did boil was quite sufficient.

"Oh! but," said she, raising her hands, and bringing them down impressively over me, "I know better, for I have tried it, and fruit will not keep without being boiled a good while, and plenty of sugar."

The discussion immediately ended, for I have found by experience that it is a waste of words to try to reason with unreasonable people. AUNT ROSA.

### DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

**BUCKWHEAT CAKES.**—Many persons dispose of cold cakes in the following way. Just before requiring to use them, dip them singly in milk or water, then lay them in a pan, cover, and set in the oven; they will come out moist, light, and as good as fresh ones.

**DUMPLINGS WITH PORK.**—Put on to boil any required quantity of water, put into it a few slices of salt pork; to this add a quantity of potatoes. Let these boil a few minutes, then drop into the mixture a few small round dumplings made of raised dough, season with pepper, and serve immediately. If preferred, a small piece of butter may be added.

**HOT SLAW.**—Cut into fine slices the inside of a good firm cabbage, put into the spider with one teacupful of water; let it boil a few minutes; season with salt and pepper, and a small piece of butter. Add a teacupful of good vinegar to a spider full of cabbage. Let it boil a few moments, and it is done.

**COLD SLAW.**—Chop any quantity of nice, white, firm cabbage, quite fine in the chopping bowl. Sweeten some good vinegar, adding a little salt and pepper, and pour over it. Serve in sauce plates.

#### SELECTED.

**APPLE PUDDING.**—Six or seven large sized apples, chopped fine in a chopping tray—one quart of milk, four eggs. Make a thin batter; just before putting in the oven, add the apples. Have a hot oven, and eat with a sauce, with a little brandy or wine in it.

In teaching use language which can be thoroughly understood, and carefully explain the meaning of every new term you use.

## Editor's Table.

### To Our Friends and Agents.

On another page will be found a remarkably liberal list of Premiums for all who send us the names of new subscribers for the year 1867. We never offered such munificent inducements before, and request all our friends to avail themselves of some of these Prizes. They are open to all, and there is not one of our readers but can take some of them. THE FARMER is the cheapest paper in the country, and being so cheap none can refuse when asked to subscribe. At our Club rates it only costs *six and a quarter cents a month!* Tell your neighbors so, and try what you can do to extend our circulation in your vicinity. Back numbers can always be supplied.

### Prize Essays.

In this number we commence publishing our Prize Essays. We have received a large number on nearly every subject called for, some of which will take considerable time to decide. They are in the hands of impartial and competent committees, and will be published as fast as the awards are made, and we can find room for them. We thank our friends for the liberal and efficient manner in which they have treated on these subjects. We think they will be found valuable contributions to the pages of THE FARMER.

### New York State Agricultural Society.

THE State Agricultural Society met in the Assembly Chamber, Albany, February 13. President J. Stanton Gould in the chair. The report of the Treasurer shows a balance in the Treasury of \$9,252.39. The report of B. P. Johnson, Secretary, was read and adopted. A committee of three from each judicial district was appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year, and they were unanimously elected:—President, General Marsena R. Patrick, of Ontario. Vice Presidents, Thomas H. Faile, of New York; Samuel Thorne, of Dutchess; Adin Thayer, of Rensselaer; Milo Ingoldsby, of Washington; Samuel Campbell, of Oneida; Joseph McGraw, Jr., of Tompkins; H. F. Foster, of Seneca; James H. Plumb, of Erie. Corresponding Secretary, B. P. Johnson, of Albany. Recording Secretary, Erastus Corning, Jr., of Albany. Treasurer, Luther H. Tucker, of Albany. Executive Committee—George H. Brown, of Dutchess; John Havens, of New York; S. T. Tabor, of Queens; T. L. Harrison, of St. Lawrence; William Ely, of Broome; James Geddes, of Onondaga; W. Chamberlain, of Dutchess; J. C. Mathews, of Erie.

The Agricultural Association was addressed by X. A. Willard, on the manufacture of cheese, and Dr. Asa Fitch, on the destruction of plants and trees by insects.

### Inquiries and Answers.

**TILDEN TOMATO.**—Information about the Tilden Tomato is asked for by some of our subscribers. Will our friend "O. J. W.," who has raised them, give us the result of his experience.

A correspondent asks:—

"Why are sheep's legs longer on grazing lands, than on grain lands?"

Will he or some one please answer—Eds.

**SOIL FOR GRAPES.**—"J. L." writes:—"When a field is well prepared for wheat, is it just right for grapes?"

**SOILING.**—*Messrs. Eds.*:—I should be glad to hear from some of your correspondents, on the subject of soiling dairy cows. By calling attention to it you will oblige—*B. B. M., Leyden, N. Y.*

*Messrs. Eds.*:—I would like to get a little information through the columns of THE FARMER.

1. The names of a few of the best varieties of winter apples. *a*

2. The names of the best grapes, for Northwestern Ohio. Land dry, soil good for wheat or corn; mostly clay. *b*

3. Can grapes and currants be propagated from cuttings? If so, how long should they be? and how far in the ground? Is there any advantage in starting them in boxes in doors? *c—G. M., Fostoria, O.*

*a.* Baldwin, Russet, Northern Spy.

*b.* Creveling, Hartford Prolific, Concord.

*c.* Yes; see Husbands' work on grape culture and wine making.

*Messrs. Eds.*:—I would like to suggest some topics for information in the pages of THE FARMER. The subject I would mention now, is the age at which the various seeds will vegetate if planted. For instance the field grains—as corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, &c. And the garden vegetables, as beets, carrots, parsneps, onions, peppers, sage, tomatoes, turnips, peas, beans, melons, cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins, cabbage, cauliflowers, &c., &c. I think a reliable statement as to how old these and other seeds may be planted successfully, will interest and instruct many of your readers.—*E. J., Winchester, N. H.*

*Messrs. Eds.*:—I would make inquiries of some of your readers for a plan of a fruit room. Any information will be thankfully received.—*J. S., Stockport, N. Y.*

**HEDGING.**—Our esteemed correspondent "J. W. P." writes us as follows, from Vermillion, Co., Ind.:—"My hedging that I planted last spring, in hedge rows, did not come up to my expectation, and I would advise all farmers to use plants, and not seeds, as the Osage Orange seed is hard to make grow, and the plants are very tender when they first come up. Where the soil was very sandy and rich, and nothing disturbed them, they came up well and made good growth; but of two and a half miles I shall take the most of it up, and set plants of the same size together. I have some plants that are good sized, but the weeds and grass stunted most of them that I planted in nursery. I do not know that they will ever do any good. I mowed the grass in August. A large amount of them but only two or three inches high. Some in hedge rows are three feet high. I am going to let them stand and see what they will be next fall. I have only two barrels of Osage Orange apples this year. Will try them in hedge rows. I think I have one row that will do to plant in that way. I fully agree with the remarks of "W. M. B." (of S., N. Y.,) in last number. I have got seed and do not want to plant in nursery. I am anxious to learn from the experience of others, and willing to give all mine, which is not much, as it is a new business to me. I shall plant some white willow this spring for stockade fence, along the Wabash river, if I can get the cuttings conveniently. I will write you more about the management of hedging, and what results. Our wheat looked green yesterday and is not hurt much yet. Peaches all killed before this storm."

**Notes on the Weather, from January 15th to February 15th, 1867.**

THE last half of January, 1867, was cold like the first, giving for its mean, 18.4, or 4.5° below the general average. Indeed the month was regularly cold weather, with no extreme cold or warmth for this term. The mean temperature of this month varied from 14.6°, to 36.4°, in 30 years, the general average being 25.0°, while the mean of January is 18.8°. The month has been colder than this only three times; only twice much colder. The coldest in this half was 6° on the 29th and 30th.

The water in the month was 2.68 inches.

The mean of the barometer, 29.36, which is rather low.

The month has been distinguished for its storms of snow—three or four severe and of wide extent, some from Maine to Florida, and from the Atlantic to west of the Mississippi. The whole country has become convinced that the accounts of snow storms of the last century and before, may be believed, so great and wide have they been in this January. Drifted as the snow was over the country, it is difficult to find its average. Here the month gave us near three feet, which is far less than the quantity in the eastern part of the State, and over New England. In the storm of the 4th, while snow fell abundantly on the land, a thunder-storm sent forth its lightnings over the Atlantic, which were in several places near the coast seen to be abundant, as the storm moved from New England toward the South. The month has been healthful.

FEBRUARY came in warm, and has continued warmer than usual. Of the first two weeks, the mean is 31.4°, which is 7° above the general average. Weather pleasant, sleighing pretty good. The last three days of this half were warm; the 13th was 48° at noon, and 45° for the mean. Of course the snow disappeared rapidly. The Genesee River rose, became pretty high, and owing to the damming of the ice towards the Rapids, the waters were forced over the bank into the Valley Canal, rapidly overflowing the south part, of the city along the canal, and filling some cellars. At 10 o'clock, P. M., there was great apprehension of a deluging flood, but in the good orderings of Divine Providence the ice broke a passage down the Genesee, and at 11 the danger had passed away. People breathed freer under the good prospect, and many beheld with joy the tossing, dashing ice swept safely for the city over the falls.

The coldest was 7°, on the 11th; coldest day, 9.3°, on the 10th, the heat of freezing on all but five days. Sleighing as this half closed.

**Western Hop Growing.**

OUR esteemed correspondent, F. W. Collins, has been traveling recently in the Western States, and sends us the following notes of his tour:

Messrs. EDS.—I have been two weeks visiting the great hop sections of Wisconsin, and find the planters have been very successful in this State. The yield is large, and the quality good. They have generally sold

at 50 cents per pound, or more. Many have become suddenly rich by one or two crops. One man reports that he got 4,200 pounds from two acres of stringed yard, and Mr. Newman, of Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin, says that by putting a stake seven feet high at each hill, at the time of planting, he got a yield of \$375 the first season, from five acres, though he had corn growing among them as usual, and the past season being what is usually called the first year's picking, the produce of the five acres will foot up over \$4,000. He says his hills all stand, and yield double the quantity and better setts from his twined yard, as he does not bleed the roots at picking.

The hops in this State are free from vermin, and very healthy. I heard of very little blight. A few gardens in low and protected places have suffered some by blight. Their greatest enemy is pole-whipping, breaking down of poles, and the loss by bleeding of the root, either by trimming the plant when growing, or cutting off the surplus vines, and most of all by cutting the vines at picking. Of this they have learned the impropriety, and are avoiding it.

There was a Hop Planters' Convention in Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wis., last week, at which they attempted to regulate the price and manner of picking, the price of setts or roots for planting, and the quantity to be called a bushel in selling roots to plant. A bushel to be 23 pounds of good setts, such as it would take 2 1-2 bushels, three in a hill to plant an acre; the price of said bushel to be \$8.00. This would make the cost of seeding \$20.00 per acre, which is too high. I found some offering roots to plant at \$10.00 per acre, in Sauk County. This I think is low at this time when hops are so high—60c to 70c per pound, for fancy samples.

The Legislature of Wisconsin has prohibited the importation of hop roots, and have fixed the size of the box for hops to be picked in, both of which laws seem unnecessary, as the vermin are not found in the root, nor do we know of any disease to be spread with the setts. Baskets are far better to pick in than boxes; they are cheaper, more easily handled, and stored for next year with less room and no trouble compared with boxes. I found Cummins' mode of treating the hop vine to prevent the flow of sap at picking when the vine is cut in use in one place. It should be adopted wherever the long poles are used. It is the next best thing to not cutting them.

F. W. COLLINS.

A USEFUL INVENTION.—We have witnessed the practical operation of one of the most useful and perfect inventions of the day. The Lamb Family Knitting Machine has created a new era in the history of mechanical agency for the performance of hand labor, and by its simplicity of construction, durability, and perfect arrangement for the purpose for which it is intended, supplies a want long needed, and never before entirely filled. All the knitting is done on the machine, there being no hard knitting required in order to complete the work. A pair of stockings which a good knitter would require at least three days to accomplish, is easily made upon this machine in half an hour, and perfectly finished too. All varieties of knit goods are knit upon this household blessing. We would not only recommend it, but would advise all who have not seen it, to do so at the earliest opportunity. See advertisement page 100.

**HOG CHOLERA.**—"P. H. F.," Babylon, N. Y., sends us the following receipt for hog cholera, which he has tried, and which proved a cure:—Ten grains crude Barrel, ten grains soda ash, made fine and slacked in hot water, given three times a day.

### THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, February 23, 1886.  
**FLOUR**—White wheat, \$15.50@16.25. Red, \$12.00@15.00.  
**GRAIN**—White wheat, 205@210c. Red, 275@280c. Corn, 105c.  
 @110c. Barley, \$1@1.15. Oats, 55@58c. Rye, 105@112c.  
**HOPS**—60c.  
**WOOL**—45c. and little doing.  
**HAY**—\$12@120.  
**SHEEP SKINS**—Prime, \$1.00@1.25.  
**PROVISIONS**—Dressed hogs, 8½@9c. Hams, 12½. Lard, 18. Butter, 25@30c. Eggs, 80c. Cheese, 16@18c. Potatoes, 56@62c.

### New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS  
 TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

New York, February 20.

**BEEF CATTLE**—Good beef cattle are in excellent request. Poor and half-fattened beefs sell slowly and at low prices. The weekly market closed yesterday, with prices as follows, viz: For extra fed cattle, 17½@18½c @ lb., net weight. Some of the extras were estimated to dress 68 lbs of beef, net weight @ 100 lb of the live weight.

In the New York cattle markets the net weight of a bullock is the number of pounds of beef there are in the four quarters. No account is made of the rough tallow and hides. The buyer of cattle gets the hides and tallow for nothing. At some other markets, the hides and rough tallow are computed with the beef.

For several weeks past there have been a great many old and poor oxen, rough and half-fattened steers and coarse stags offered for sale. Such animals sell slowly at 10c@11c @ lb., net weight. Common to good steers, that will dress seven to eight hundred pounds of meat each, bring about 15c@16c @ lb., net weight.

The average price of the sales is estimated about 15c @ lb. The number sold at over 17c is exceedingly small.

There were several choice Durham steers four years old, some of which were sold to weigh over 4,500 lb live weight, per pair, some of which were sold for 19c @ lb., net weight. Neat cattle that are really fat, will usually sell for a fair price, without much difficulty.

**MILCH COWS**—The trade in milch cows since my last report, has been uniformly dull; sales exceedingly slow, and prices very low. There is but little demand for milch cows, at the present time. It is said that now there is not a milch cow fed on swill, in all the city of New York. The citizens are becoming so accustomed to the use of condensed milk, and they find it so superior to the thin, watered milk which is sold by most of the milkmen, that they prefer the condensed milk to any other. Supplying families with condensed milk is becoming a great business, in both New York and Brooklyn. For these reasons, numerous families prefer to use condensed milk, rather than to keep a cow.

Most of the cows that are brought to market, are twelve to sixteen years old, poor, ill-formed and inferior milkers. Of course, such animals sell slowly at \$55 or \$60 per head. Some of the poorest bring only \$40 per head. Common to fair cows will bring about \$80 or \$90 per head, if they are in fair condition and are not too old. Occasionally a choice, and beautiful cow, with a calf at her side, is brought to market, and sold for \$100 to \$140, according to her beauty and value. Dealers in milch cows complain of dull trade, every week. The number for the past week was only 68.

**VEAL CALVES**—Trade in veal calves drags heavily during the winter months, although there is an active demand for fat calves. But such calves as a thrifty, and progressive farmer would slaughter for his own table, are exceedingly scarce in the New York markets. During the past month, the prices for calves have been uniform and steady. Fat calves have sold readily for 18c@14c @ lb., live weight. Common calves bring 10c@11c @ lb., live weight. Most of the calves were young, thin and poor, and sold for all prices from 5c to 10c @ lb., live weight. Most of the fat calves are killed, and their entrails removed before they are shipped. They are skinned after they arrive at the market. This is being understood as a much better way to take fat calves to market, than to transport them alive; as the shrinkage is much less; while the price per lb., is usually about 16c gross weight—with the skin on.

The supply for the past few weeks has averaged about 460 per week. Next month, no doubt, there will be a heavy supply, when the price must decline.

Some of the cows that are brought to market, drop their calves while they are in the stable; and when the young animals are one or two days old, they are sold for veal, at a few dollars per head. Some little calves are taken at only \$3 or \$8 per head. If the

police happen to see them, they are gobbled up and confiscated, without much ceremony.

**SHEEP**—The arrivals exceed the weekly requirements of the trade. Transactions were dull during most of the week. A large proportion of the droves consisted of thin, inferior sheep, that were utterly unfit for mutton. For a week past the tendency of prices has been downwards. The weather has not been unfavorable for a good sheep market, as it has been quite too warm. A very small proportion of the sheep for this week were really fit to slaughter. The most of them were only second-rate mutton sheep.

The weekly average of sheep at all the New York markets numbers about 15,000. On some weeks, the receipts are nearly 30,000 sheep and lambs. The best fat sheep sold the past week for 8c @ lb., live weight. But there were only a few that would command that price. Most of the sales were made at about 6c @ lb., live weight. The demand for fat sheep is active.

**SWINE**—The swine market is exceedingly dull. The arrivals for the past week number 15,250, besides hundreds that I, nor other reporters have been able to get any account of, as they are brought in from the country, and scattered about the city by peddlers. The number here given embraces only those that are brought alive to the slaughter houses. The market has been very unsteady for the past few weeks. At the present writing, the best Western, corn fed hogs, are selling at 7c@7½c @ lb., live, gross weight. Common to rough pork, 6c@6½c @ lb., live, gross weight. The best hogs dressed, bring 8c@8½c @ lb. But sales are slow at these figures. The supply is fully equal to the requirements of the trade. There is no prospect that prices for some time will advance much, if any at all beyond the present figures. Dealers expect lower prices rather than higher. As the warm weather comes on there is less activity in the swine market.

**GRAIN**—Transactions in grain, at the present time, are exceedingly dull. Prices for the past two weeks have fluctuated. Sales were reported yesterday of 18,800 bushels, including White Canadian, at \$8; Inferior No. 3 to good No. 2, Chicago Spring and Milwaukee Club at from \$1.95 to about \$2.25; Amber State (a small lot of common) at \$2.92½; and White California, at \$3.15 @ bushel. Corn has been in fair supply and demand at reduced prices, closing irregularly. Oats are in better request, including Chicago, Milwaukee, and Cleveland at 55c@58c., chiefly at 56c@58c., and State at 55c@57c., in store @ bushel; sales of 42,000 bushels. Barley has been in moderately active request, partly for export, at steady rates. Sales since our last, 91,000 bushels at \$1.12½@1.25 for Canada West, common to choice, free; 91c@92c for do., in bond, \$1.08 for State, and 80c@85c for Western, (last evening) @ bushel. Barley Malt is dull and heavy at \$1.25@1.30 @ bushel. Rye continues quiet. Sales 18,000 bushels at \$1.15@1.18 for Western, and \$1.17@1.25 for State, @ bushel.

An extensive dealer in flour here writes thus: Although the stock is decreasing, yet holders have of late shown more desire to sell, (in view of more free receipts and the depressed state of business generally,) and our quotations are reduced. There is considerable here and in transit from California, and it is being gradually introduced into consumption, as the prejudice heretofore entertained wears off and its merits become better known. In barrels it would be much more salable than in bags. There is but little demand for wheat in the present unsettled state of the flour market, and the millers (who are the only purchasers) buy with caution and for immediate wants only. The shipments from California to this port have been free, a few small lots have arrived and been sold at \$3.15@3.25 as to quality. At the close, the market for all descriptions was heavy and prices nominal. Barley is dull and lower under the effect of less favorable English advices and increased freights. Canada West in bond is held at 90c@95c. The stock of Rye in bond is much reduced, but prices have declined under a light demand; it is held at \$1.11@1.12. For Oats prices favor buyers in the absence of an export demand. Indian corn has fluctuated in value, and with free supplies of new and higher foreign freights, is a trifle lower on the fortnight. The Export Clearances from this port for the fortnight foot up: To Great Britain and Ireland, 414,546 bushels corn, 150,827 bushels Barley, 81,818 bushels oats, 10,728 bushels Peas. To continental ports, 100 bbls. Flour, 800 bbls. Corn Meal, 73,291 bushels Rye. To South America, 1,518 bbls. Flour, 758 bbls. Corn Meal, 500 bushels Corn, 150 bushels Peas. To all other ports, 7,859 bbls. Flour, 96 bbls. Rye Flour, 8,773 bbls. Corn Meal, 2,480 bushels Corn, 8,489 bushels Barley, 560 bushels Oats, 980 bushels Peas; making a total to all ports of 9,477 bbls. Flour, 96 bbls. Rye Flour, 4,885 bbls. Corn Meal, 417,828 bushels Corn, 73,291 bushels Rye, 158,766 bushels Barley, 81,898 bushels Oats, and 11,308 bushels Peas.

**FLOUR AND MEAL**—A rather better inquiry prevails to-day, for State and Western Flour at about previous prices. Sales since our last have been 7,850 bbls., including poor to choice Superfine State and Western at \$8.55@9.25; common to good Extra State at \$9.55@10.55; good to choice do. do., at \$1.85@11.50; round-hoop Extra Ohio poor to good shipping brands, at \$10.00@11.00 @ bbl. We now quote:

Superfine State and Western.....	\$8.55@ 9.25
Extra State.....	9.35@11.50
Extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c.....	9.50@13.75
Extra Ohio, round-hoop, shipping brands.....	10.60@11.60
Extra Ohio, trade and family brands.....	11.65@14.50
Extra Genesee.....	11.50@14.25
Common to choice extra Missouri.....	12.00@16.00



Southern Flour is quiet at former rates. Sales 300 bbls., at \$10.15@12.25 for ordinary to fair extra, and \$12.25@16 for fair to choice extra do., 5 bbl. Canadian Flour continues inactive at \$11.75@14.50 for extra, 5 bbl.; sales 145 bbls. Rye Flour is plenty and depressed at from \$6.75@7.35 5 bbl.; sales 400 bbls. Corn Meal is in lively request at \$5.50@5.75 for Western and Pennsylvania; \$5.10@5.15 for Jersey; \$5.50 for Marsh's Caloric, and \$5.50 for Brandywine, 5 bbl. Sales 1,500 bbls. Buckwheat Flour continues quiet at \$2.60@2.83, chiefly within range, 5 100 lbs.

HAY—North River bale has been in request and steady at \$1.35@1.40 for shipment, and \$1.55@1.65 for local use, 5 100 lbs. Straw, \$1.20@1.50 5 100 lbs.

HOES—Are in moderate request, and very firm, including new at \$5@7.00; old at 20c@45c; also new foreign at 55@85c 5 lb.

COFFEY—Is in demand and firmly held, including Java at 24c@35c; Native Ceylon, 19c@20c; Maracabo, 17c@19c; Laguayra, 17c@18c; Rio, 15c@19c; San Domingo, 15c@16c; in gold, 5 lb. The week's receipts of Rio Coffee have been 4,305 bags; sales of do., 12,025 bags; stock of all kinds of Coffee here to-day 61,991 bags, including according to Messrs. Wm. Scott & Sons, of Rio and Santos Coffee, 34,161 bags; of Java Coffee, (equal to) 9,706 bags; of Ceylon, 3,180 bags; of Ceara, 2,700 bags; of Maracabo, 2,108 bags; of Laguayra, 3,742 bags; of St. Domingo, 1,300 bags; and of other descriptions, 5,184 bags.

## STOCK OF RIO IN THE COUNTRY.

New Orleans, bags.....	9,000
Galveston, bags.....	2,800
Mobile, bags.....	1,800
Savannah, bags.....	1,600
Baltimore, bags.....	14,000
New York, bags.....	84,167

Grand Total, bags..... 63,867

BUTTER—Sussex, Orange and Chemung County Dairies	
firkins, good to extra, 5 lb.....	40@43
Sussex, Orange and Chemung County Dairies half-firkin	
tubs, good to extra, 5 lb.....	42@43
New York State Dairies—firkins, good to extra 5 lb.....	38@40
New York State Dairies—half-firkin tubs, good to	
extra, 5 lb.....	40@43
New York State Dairies—half-firkin tubs fair to good 5 lb.....	35@38
New York State Dairies—fresh firkins, extra, 5 lb.....	40@43
New York State Dairies—ordinary qualities 5 lb.....	27@33
New York State Dairies—Welsh tubs, good to extra, 5 lb.....	35@37
New York State Dairies—Welsh tubs, fair to good, 5 lb.....	30@32
North Pennsylvania Dairies—firkins, fair to good, 5 lb.....	34@35
North Pennsylvania Dairies—firkins ordinary, 5 lb.....	30@32
Western Reserve—firkins, fair to good, 5 lb.....	25@28
Western Reserve—firkins, ordinary, 5 lb.....	22@24
Western State—firkins, fair to good, 5 lb.....	22@25
Western State—firkins, ordinary, 5 lb.....	18@20
Western State—firkins, common, 5 lb.....	12@14
Rolls, good to prime in cloth, 5 lb.....	28@30
Rolls, Western, good to prime, in cloth, 5 lb.....	26@28
Rolls, poor to good, 5 lb.....	23@26

## CHEESE.

Factory Dairies, 1st quality State, 5 lb.....	20@21
Factory Dairies, 2d quality State, 5 lb.....	19@20
Factory Dairies, Western, 5 lb.....	18@20
Farm Dairies, 1st quality State, 5 lb.....	18@20
Farm Dairies, 2d quality State, 5 lb.....	16@18
Farm Dairies, Western, 5 lb.....	16@18
Skimmed Cheese, Western and State, 5 lb.....	10@15
Farm Dairies, common, 5 lb.....	15@16

APPLES—Trade in apples is quiet. Prices are firm and steady. The following figures will give a fair idea of the market.

Apples, selected, 5 bbl.....	\$ 1.50@1.80
Apples, Western, 5 bbl.....	3.50@ 4.50
Apples, Prime Winter, 5 bbl.....	5.50@ 6.00
Cranberries, Eastern, 5 bbl.....	25.00@28.00
Cranberries, Jersey, 5 bbl.....	23.00@26.00

DEIRED FRUITS. P.—Dried apples are in better supply, and the market is easier.

Apples, State and Western, 5 lb.....	.11 @13c
Apples, Southern, 5 lb.....	.9c@11
Peaches, Southern, peeled, 5 lb.....	.84 @85
Peaches, unpeeled, halves, 5 lb.....	.15 @16
Peaches, unpeeled, quarters, 5 lb.....	.13 @14
Cherries, New Pitted, 5 lb.....	.50 @—
Blackberries, 5 lb.....	.20 @22
Raspberries.....	.40 @43
Plums, 5 lb.....	.84 @85

POULTRY AND GAME—The demand for poultry has been very light throughout the entire week, and at the close the market is dull and fairly supplied. Game is dull and lower.

## DRESSED POULTRY.

Turkeys, 5 lb.....	18@ 20
Chickens, 5 lb.....	17@ 19
Geese, 5 lb.....	14@ 15
Ducks, 5 lb.....	18@ 20

## GAME.

Partridges, 5 pair.....	60@ 70
Quail, 5 doz.....	1.50@ 2.00
Venison, carcasses, 5 lb.....	10@ 12
Venison, saddle, 5 lb.....	14@ 15
Prairie Chickens, 5 pair.....	50@ 60

EGGS—The supply of eggs is more liberal but not large enough as yet to reduce the very high prices that have prevailed for the past month.

Jersey, Extra brands, 5 dozen.....	50@ 52
State and Penn., 5 dozen.....	45@ 50
Ordinary Western, 5 dozen.....	46@ 47
Western, by Express, 5 dozen.....	47@ 48
Canada, 5 dozen.....	47@ 48
Limed, 5 dozen.....	—

BEANS AND PEAS—The market is well stocked with beans, but many of them are poor and are difficult to move. Prime are in moderate demand and firmly held.

Prime Beans, Kidneys, 5 bushel.....	\$3.25@3.50
Prime Beans, Marrows, new, 5 bushel.....	3.00@ 3.25
Prime Beans, Mediums, 5 bushel.....	2.75@ 3.50
Prime Beans, Mixed Parcells, 5 bushel.....	2.25@ 2.50
Peas, Canada, 5 bushel.....	1.40@ 1.50

VEGETABLES—Potatoes are arriving more freely, and as trade is dull, prices are lower.

Peachblows, 5 bbl.....	\$2.25@2.75
Marcera, 5 bbl.....	2.50@ 2.75
Jackson Whites, 5 bbl.....	2.25@ 2.50
Beckeyes, 5 bbl.....	2.00@ 2.25
Dyckman, 5 bbl.....	3.00@ 3.50
Chilian Reds, new, 5 bbl.....	2.25@ 2.50
Sweet Potatoes, 5 bbl.....	5.50@ 6.00

SUGARS—Have been in fair demand at rather buoyant prices. Sales since our last 1,470 hhds. Cuba, &c., at from 10c@12c, and 350 boxes Havana, part at 10c@11c 5 lb. Refined sugars are in good request at from 13c@15c.

WOOL—Desirable lots of wool are being sold quite freely, and at firm prices. The movements in foreign wool are restricted and prices are fluctuating. The following will furnish a fair idea of the prices for the various kinds of wool from the different States.

## New York, Michigan, Vermont.

Choice Saxony fleeces.....	70@80
Saxony fleeces.....	—
Full blood fleeces.....	50@55
and 1/2 blood fleeces.....	—
Native and 1/2 fleeces.....	45@49
Common fleeces.....	—

## Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Choice Saxony fleeces.....	65@75
Saxony fleeces.....	—
Full blood fleeces.....	50@52
and 1/2 blood fleeces.....	—
Native and 1/2 fleeces.....	45@50
Common fleeces.....	—

## Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Indiana.

Saxony fleeces.....	50@55
Full blood fleeces.....	—
and 1/2 blood fleeces.....	—
Native and 1/2 fleeces.....	42@48
Common fleeces.....	—

## Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Washed fleeces.....	45@52
Unwashed fleeces.....	30@35
Southern unwashed fleeces.....	26@33
Southern unwashed fleeces burry.....	16@20

## Texas.

Washed fleeces.....	85@92
Unwashed fleeces.....	22@34
Unwashed fleeces, burry.....	14@20

## California.

Washed fleeces.....	42@52
Unwashed fleeces, fine.....	24@38
Unwashed fleeces, medium.....	—
Unwashed fleeces, coarse.....	18@23
Unwashed burry, coarse.....	17@20
Pulled fine.....	35@43
Pulled medium.....	35@38
Pulled, common.....	26@32

## Pulled Wool.

New York City, extra.....	48@52
New York City, super.....	40@43
New York City, No. 1.....	30@33
New York City, No. 2.....	18@16
Country, extra.....	50@55
Country, super.....	48@49
Country, No. 1.....	35@40
Country No. 2.....	15@18
Lambs.....	36@44
Western limed pulled.....	30@40
Southern limed pulled.....	28@33
Tub washed.....	48@56



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Early Goodrich and Gleason Potatoes, \$1 ½ peck.

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ticultural journals, and the public have been made acquainted to  
some extent with its qualities. It still enjoys the high reputation  
in France which it acquired several years since as a winter pear,  
and it is believed will fill a want which has always been felt for a  
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as follows:—Trees, strong growers, very vigorous, and of early  
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Fruit, in size, form and color, bearing a great resemblance to  
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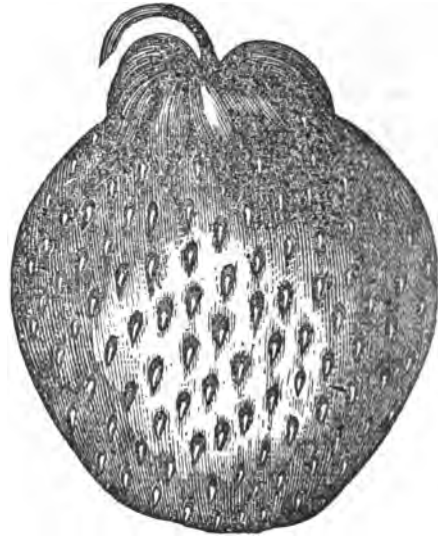
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berries measuring six inches in circumference. It ripens fifteen  
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Knox's Jucunda, No. 700..	1 "	5 "	"

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ONTARIO, \$1.50 each.  
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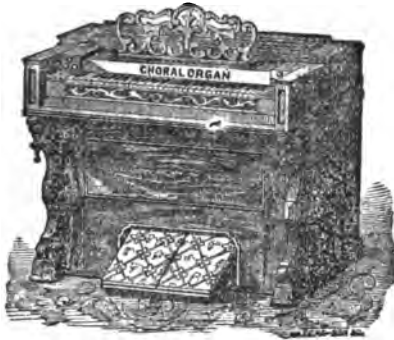
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Yours truly,

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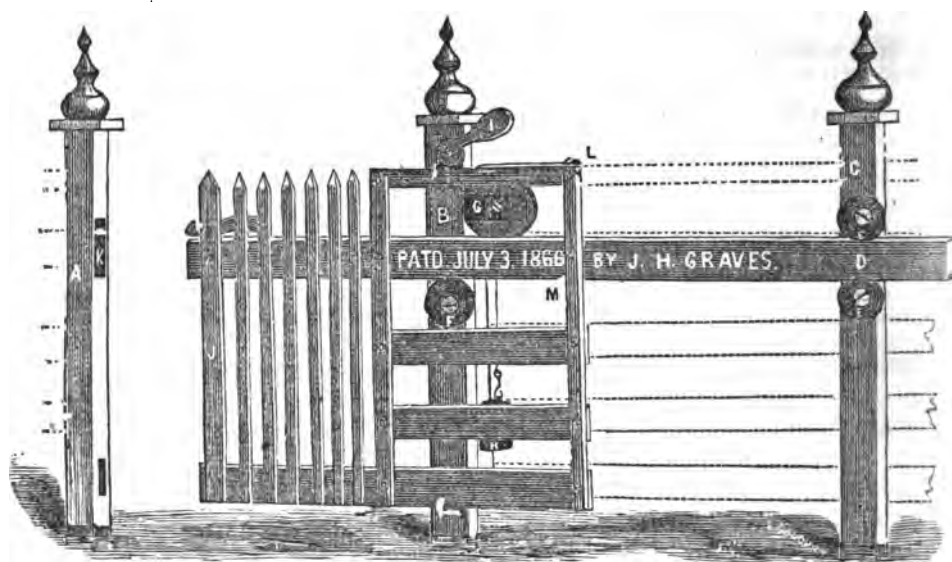
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mh O. BAILEY, Livonia, N. Y.

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# THE AMERICAN FARMER

ENTERED according to Act of Congress, in the year 1867, by JOHN TURNER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Northern District of New York.

VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., APRIL, 1867.

No 4.



Through all her thousand pores,  
Old earth awakens from her winter's dream,  
And doting nature feels the quickening pulse  
That stirs to life within her torpid breast,  
And gushes out in little rills of joy,  
Which gently breathe their softly murmured thanks  
For all that is, and is so soon to be.  
The sun mounts higher in his daily course,  
And casts his midday beams in burning rays;  
Yet fails to melt the deeply drifted banks  
In sheltered nooks, and shadowy hollows piled.  
The swelling bud and tiny pushing leaf  
Shows moving life within the woody veins,  
Which by and by shall burst upon the view  
In all its glorious wealth of leaves and flowers.  
The early birds, so late from southern climes,  
Awake us with their native songs of praise,  
And lowing cattle join the glad refrain  
Which man fills up and offers to his God.

Belfast, Me.

G. R. B.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

WE take it for granted that all our readers have completed their plans for the spring and summer campaign on the farm, and are now ready to commence the busy work of spring. It should be our aim to make "two blades of grass grow where only one grew before," and get our land into the very best condition to produce the crops which we intend to sow or plant. The active labors of the farm commence with April, and in order to bring up our farms to a thorough state of fertility we should this month get a fair start, and all our work well under way.

**BARLEY**—is one of the first crops to be sown, which should be done as early as the ground can be got into good condition. Light, warm, mellow soil, is the best for barley. Seed should be sown at the rate of two bushels to the acre. Land that has been manured for corn, will, if in good condition, produce a fair crop of barley.

**SOW CLOVER.**—Here, there, everywhere. On

wheat lands, let it be scattered freely, and a good coat of plaster applied afterwards. It will do more towards fertilizing our lands than anything else we can do. It is the grand renovating plant of American agriculture. We can also apply it with great advantage on barley, corn, and oat land, in fact anywhere and everywhere on the farm.

**MANURE.**—Apply manure freely to meadow land, If we raise good crops of grass and clover, and feed it out to our stock, or turn it under, we can soon make a worn out farm rich.

**STONES, STICKS, AND BRUSH**—should be picked off meadow lands intended to be mown. Let the land be free from any obstacles that may come in the way of the mower, and thus save time and money.

**HARROWING WHEAT.**—In the April number of *THE FARMER*, for 1866, page 107, we gave a communication on this subject from our friend and correspondent "R. H." Now is the time to put it in practice, and learn from experience the benefit to be derived from this plan of operations.

**VEGETABLE GARDEN.**—Do not overlook the importance of a good garden. It should receive early attention, and each day, morning and evening, an hour or more devoted to it. Nothing adds more to the comforts of a farmer's family than a good garden full of fresh vegetables for the table.

**PLOWS**—should be kept going when the ground is in proper condition. There is nothing gained by plowing wet land; it is better to wait a few days, or a week, and let the ground get dry, so that it will break up and pulverize freely. Attend to the

**FENCES**—and repair them. Replace decayed fence rails with good ones. Mend stones walls where the stones are loose or fallen down. Attention should also be given to gates and fence posts, which straighten up and reset if necessary.

**THE POULTRY HOUSE**—should receive a thorough cleansing on the first wet day. Mix the manure with fine soil, when it can be applied to corn in the hill, or applied broadcast on the land.

**FOWLS**—require to be watched when they lay away, and the broods brought to the house as soon



as hatched. Now is the time to raise pullets for laying next fall. Early chickens make the best birds.

**BEES.**—In April remove all absorbing material from the tops of the hives, closing up the holes and all apertures, leaving a small entrance for the bees. Clean out and repair old hives. This will retain the heat, and greatly advance early breeding. Remove all filthy and drone combs. If short of food, don't hesitate to feed. Place the food on the top of the hive, secured from other bees. If you do not wish to attract robbers, a few dimes worth of food will save many valuable stocks. Dissolved sugar is a good substitute for honey. Don't neglect the above hints.

**ANIMALS** will require close watching this month, and should not be overlooked during the busy season of sowing and planting. If turned out into the fields, see to it that they have some dry food every day for the first two weeks or longer. The change from dry to green food should not be too rapid.

Having improved the winter's leisure by reading and study, let the spring time of 1867 be fully spent in putting into practice the knowledge we have gained, and every effort made to advance the noble art of agriculture, will prosper under the well directed hands of the intelligent American farmer.

### SMALL vs. LARGE FARMS.

THOSE who have at heart the improvement of agriculture in this country, are divided in opinion as to whether that improvement would be most advanced by the general culture of large or small farms. Like all questions which divide earnest thinkers, it presents strong arguments in favor of both sides. On the side of large farms, it may be urged:—

1. By dividing the arable portion of our country into farms of four or five hundred acres each, instead of one hundred or less, the number of proprietors would be so much reduced that the greater portion of them would be qualified by intelligence and business talents, to cultivate their farms to the best advantage. In other words, the lesser number of landed proprietors would be likely to possess a greater average of intelligence.

2. In cultivating large farms, the farmer would be able to avail himself, to a greater extent, of the economical, labor-saving implements or machinery, such as grain drills, gang plows, wheel cultivators, mowers and reapers, threshing machines, cider mills, grain mills, fodder-cutters, fodder-steamers, &c.; thus substituting the cheaper labor of machinery for human labor.

3. The soil would be in the hands of larger capitalists who would be able to work it better than small farmers with limited capital.

4. Large farmers, with large crops to dispose of, would be able to market their crops to better advantage, in most cases shipping directly to large manufacturers of flour, cloth, &c., and to large dealers in farm produce, thus saving to themselves the profits and commissions of intermediate brokers and speculators.

5. Some would favor large farms because farmers would find sufficient employment in superintending the business of the farm, and directing the labors of employees, without engaging in manual labor themselves, enabling them to live more "*gentle*" lives without "contaminating" themselves with too great an intimacy with the soil.

These, we believe to be the leading arguments in favor of large farms. We will now see what can be said on the other side of the question.

1. Admitting the first—that the reduced number of landed proprietors would be likely to be more intelligent and capable business men—still we think that advantage would be more than neutralized by the greater number of non-interested and inefficient laborers who would be employed in tilling the soil. On small farms the labor is generally performed by the proprietor and minor sons, or perhaps one hired laborer, who working day after day, by the side of his employer, conversing with him about his plans, and striving to equal or excel him in labor, becomes gradually interested in having the work done *well*, and in season. Thus, if the *superintendents* of small farms, are not quite so intelligent, or capable as those of larger ones would be, the hired laborers are much more intelligent and efficient than those of large ones.

2. Probably the strongest argument in favor of large farms, is that they admit of the employment of labor-saving machinery. But this disadvantage of small farmers, may to a great extent be obviated by several uniting together, and owning such machines in partnership. There would be some difficulties in this course, but only such as have been and may be again overcome. We have known of several farmers in a neighborhood owning machines together without trouble, and its tendency is to promote a social, neighborly feeling. Those farmers would change work, and with the same set of hands do their reaping, mowing, threshing, &c., with greater economy and despatch than a large farmer could have performed the same amount of labor entirely with hired labor.

3. In answer to the third argument, we would say: if small farmers would concentrate their limited capital upon just so much land as they could till well, they would achieve greater results, and soon be able to extend the area of their cultivated lands; and furthermore, four or five farmers culti-

vating as many hundred acres of land, would possess, in addition to their money capital, the capital existing in their own sinewy frames, to offset against the money of the large farmer.

4. Here, again, farmers might combine and market their crops to better advantage than they could separately.

5. We have urged in a former article, the importance of farmers co-operating with their employees in the labors of the field, and need not reiterate the arguments then employed. We will only say, that in our opinion the farmer who feels that it would be degrading for him to labor, cannot be very warmly attached to his calling.

But there are many positive reasons in favor of small vs. large farms. By the multiplication of farms, the laborer becomes to a greater extent his own employer, and his efficiency is thereby increased. By a recent report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, we learn that there are in the United States but 900,000 hired farm laborers, excluding freedmen, and 2,500,000 proprietors of farms. Does any one doubt that the agricultural productions of our country, are greatly increased by the fact that two-thirds of those engaged in the cultivation of the soil are owners of the soil?

With the millions of acres of virgin soil awaiting the settlement of the enterprising pioneer, only minors, the ignorant immigrant, and the more indolent and unenterprising of our native population are content to remain servants of others; but the better class of laborers, as soon as they arrive at majority, strike out towards the setting sun, where land is cheap and fertile, and where they may become independent freeholders, and bear a part in founding, and perchance in eventually ruling new States. So long as we have such vast tracts of public domain inviting the settlement of any one who can muster enough money to convey them thither, and support them until they can raise a crop, our best laborers will be restless in subordinate positions, and it will be impossible to cultivate large farms thoroughly and economically with hired laborers.

### FARM TALKS--No. 9.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. R. BRACKETT  
BELFAST, MAINE.

"Got through sugarin'?"

"Nearly; hope to get a few more days run of sap, then I'll close up operations for the season, so far as sugar-making is concerned."

"Bein' a pretty good run o' sap, ain't they?"

"Yes, fair; I have known better."

"How old is your bush?"

"A majority of the trees are about fifty years

old—second growth; but there are several large old growth maples among them."

"Sap's sweeter from them."

"Yes, makes more and better sugar."

"Got your firewood all up and cut?"

"No; I've a few days more chopping. I've been hauling out dung for the past two or three days. I find it's handy to haul it out now when the ground is frozen solid, as the wheels don't cut in so bad as they do when the frost is going out of the ground. Now you can drive over any part of the field without injuring the grass ground."

"But you couldn't get at it if it wasn't under cover."

"Not very well; and that shows the value of a manure shed. When your manure is under cover you can haul it out at your leisure, even on snow in the winter, and thus gain so much time against the driving work comes off."

"What you going to sow where you are dropping this dung, barley?"

"No, oats. I'm going to try oats again for seedling down with. I'm beginning to learn that it won't pay to raise barley. Now oats bring seventy-five cents, and barley only a dollar and ten cents a bushel in market, and at that price it pays best to raise oats, taking everything into consideration."

"I know you can raise a good many more oats on the same piece of ground, and you don't have to manure it so high, neither, but they say oats sap the ground most."

"Well, the fact is neighbor, so far as I have noticed, we sow oats on our poorest soil and neglect to manure it, and then because the ground is in a poor condition for a future crop we say the oats have sapped it; whereas, the truth is, in my opinion, if the soil had been as rich as we make it for barley, we would get a large crop of grain, the grass seed would catch well, and there would be no cause to complain of the oats sapping the ground."

"Oat fodder is worth more than barley."

"Yes, and that is quite an item in these times when hay is worth a dollar a hundred. Give me good oat straw and plenty of roots, and I'll engage to carry a stock of cattle through the winter in good shape."

"Goin' to school meetin' to-morrow?"

"Certainly. That is one of those things we farmers should always be interested in. Our common school system is at the very foundation of our prosperity and well-being as a people and nation. And we should always be on hand to look out for the district school—see that capable and interested persons are put in charge of the business; that good teachers are employed, and give them our assistance and encouragement in the performance of their duties."

## FARM CONVENIENCES.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER BY "G. F.," READINGTON, N. J.

*A Home-made Root Cleaner.*—Roots should be as free from dirt as possible when fed to stock. If stored in good order, there will be little trouble on this account; but if they are dirty the best thing to be done is to clean them. The accompanying sketch, (fig. 1,) is from an implement built by the



Fig. 1.

writer on a rainy day. Its construction can be readily understood from the illustration. When used, the roots are put in through a door in the side, and the cylinder turned until the dirt is rattled out. The cylinder is two feet across, and three long; the heads made of two-inch plank, and the slats an inch thick, and two wide. The door is put on with a pair of strap hinges, and kept closed by a latch, or hook and staple, or wooden button. The space between the slats is three-fourths of an inch.

In taking a plow to or from the field, or from one field to another, unless the share is protected in some way, it will be somewhat worn, and will also cause considerable vexation by jerking the plow when it strikes a stone or root. To prevent this, a shoe or slide of some kind is necessary. The simplest and cheapest, and as good as any, is one made from a crooked or knotty stick of wood, about twenty inches long, with the front end turned up and then leveled, leaving a head in front, (see fig. 2.)



Fig. 2.

by a pin in the rear. That is all there is of it.

Another way of getting plows to the field, as well as harrows and other tools which must be carried or dragged, is to take them on a "boat" or drag made of planks. There are several ways of making such drags, some of which I will present to the readers of THE FARMER.

The first is made of the crotch of a tree, fig. 3, with the front rounded off like a sled, and the top dressed smooth and covered with plank. It may be from six to ten feet long. Another is made of



Fig. 3.

plank placed across the direction intended for the length of the drag, and the ends secured between two strips of plank, and the whole securely fastened by bolts or wooden pins. A clevis in front will do to fasten the motive power to. Size, 8 feet by 3 1-2 feet.

Still another plan is to make one of three or four planks laid side by side, (fig. 4,) and secured by pins driven through cross-pieces at each end. This may



Fig. 4.

be of the same size as the former, and drawn by a ring attached to the forward end. In making these drags, it is necessary that the forward end be rounded a little under to enable it to pass over the ground more easily. They are excellent to draw heavy stones or stumps on, as it is easier to load upon them than a wagon, although of course, as large a load can not be drawn on these as on wheeled vehicles.

In plowing a field overgrown with long grass or weeds, a contrivance is desirable to drag the tops under the furrow, so that they shall be completely covered by the plow. Such an arrangement I have used for several seasons. It consists (fig. 5,) of no-



Fig. 5.

thing but a chain; a rather heavy one is best, with one end fastened to the plow beam at a point a little forward of the center of the mold board, and the other end fastened to the double whiffletree. The chain must be slack enough to drag to the bottom of the furrow. A little experience will determine the proper length.

## NOTES FOR THE MONTH, BY "S. W."

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

## THE LAST GLORIOUS GIFT OF GEORGE PEABODY.

In donating over a million of dollars for the education of the destitute children of every color at the South, at this time, above all others, when political rancor and sectional hate is doing so much to divide, keep asunder, and destroy the great mutual interests of this great nation, this truly great man, with a catholic and apostolic heart, has nobly made his great wealth the means of rebuking that narrow, sectional spirit, which so many politicians, priests, and people, North and South, now indulge in towards each other.

How much more God-like it is, thus to lift up, aid, and elevate, the weak ones of the impoverished land, that they may again become an intellectual

and homogeneous part of one great whole, than to visit them with a disfranchising, selfish, political oppression, to the disgrace of all latter-day humanity, and to the scandal of that holy religion which Jesus taught and Paul preached.

#### A BETTER DAY COMING FOR THE COTTON GROWING SOUTH.

It is refreshing to find in that capital monthly, *The Southern Cultivator*, published at Athens, Ga., so many cotton growing correspondents who have such a masterly view of the duties incumbent on them in their present very trying transition state from slave to free labor. Many of them set down the true panacea for their present disabilities to be in educating their own white hands to moderate pains-taking labor, which will enable them to become their own efficient overseers; and to improve a very little hired help into the maximum of practical usefulness, which a master's presence, direction and encouragement, never yet failed to accomplish. A Marion county planter writes thus: "I don't care what color a man may be, he is a poor, thoughtless, corrupt mortal, unless you elevate his position, enlighten his mind, and excite his ambition, and that by constant supervision, instruction, and generous treatment. Those white men who are now thrown broadcast on the world as hirelings, must be better than any I have yet tried, if they are more profitable than our freedmen. We are now in a novel position in regard to them, but we must have patience, and learn first to govern ourselves, or we can never govern and instruct them to our mutual benefit. Do not try to cheat or deceive them; we must have the respect and confidence of those we try to govern, or all our labor is lost. We can never have their esteem and confidence, except by honorable, generous, and strictly upright dealings with them. Many planters revenge the shortcomings of their help by malice, taking every occasion to taunt and jeer them, thus effectually crushing out the little self-respect they have left, instead of increasing it by encouraging a better life. I have a number of freedmen employed, and never had more work done day by day, nor with less trouble and vexation. I have yet to find the man or woman who has proved insensible to kindness."

It seems to be the general opinion among the best and most enterprising planters, that the freedman must be lifted up, elevated, and improved, in order that he may emerge from the savage to the civilized state, which alone can give him that self-respect so necessary to hold him back from vagrancy and theft. These astute planters scout the idea of importing foreign laborers, either European or Asiatic, as a bootless, costly experiment. They prefer to do their best to amend the ills they have, and are determined not to "fly to others that they know not of."

#### CASHMERE ANGORA GOAT.



Messrs. Eds.:—The breeding of goats has gained the attention of some of our most prominent stockholders and farmers throughout the country for the past fifteen years. That they are hardy animals is conceded by all, living as they do on the coarsest kinds of herbage, such as sweet briars, &c., and easily wintered on hay or straw without grain, and the fact of their being long lived, frequently living to the age of twenty or twenty-five years, raising, if desired, two litters of kids, and from one to three at each litter. Kids being far more hardy than lambs, make them a most valuable acquisition to our wool-bearing animals.

Cashmere goats were formerly imported from Asia by Dr. Davis and Judge Peters, of South Carolina, somewhere about the year 1850. They are large-sized animals, the bucks weighing from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pounds; of square form, and compactly built. They are covered with long, fine wool, from ten to twelve inches long; and are well wooled down the legs, to the extent of five or six inches in length and very fine. They shear from three to ten pounds at a shearing, and should be shorn as early in the spring as the weather will permit; otherwise, if neglected too long they will lose their wool, and a kind of hair takes its place for a short time. Full blooded goats do not raise but one kid at a time, while crosses breed after the common goat, in this particular, and will continue the habit of raising two or three at a litter, no matter how high they are graded or crossed with the fine wool goat.

Half bloods yield but little wool, being rather short, and interspersed with coarse hair, while three-fourths or seven-eighths is scarcely discernible from the full bloods, being quite as fine and nearly as large, their wool bringing in market this year six dollars per pound. This is nearly the first year that there has been any sale for it in this country. With but a few common does which can be procured in almost any part of the country, a farmer can with a good, full-blooded Cashmere buck, soon have quite

a flock of grades, which will pay him better according to the capital invested than most any other kind of business he can engage in, while their wool brings a good price. A fine fifteen-sixteenth blood is worth \$300 to \$500, and will, if an "A No. 1" animal, bring that price readily. In selecting common goats, procure as square and compactly built animals as possible, pay no regard to color, as black is equally as good as white. Half-bloods make the best eating, taste nearly like venison, and are equally as good for jerked meat. I will furnish you the result of my breeding with the common goat this fall.

Spencer, O.

W. W. D.

### JAPAN, OR CHILIAN MAIZE. (*Zea Caragua*.)

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER BY "COSMO."

HAVING the subject just now in mind through the recent remarks of an old shipmate, it has also occurred to me that I shall be doing so many farmers as read *THE FARMER*, a favor, and so many wives and daughters as they may happen to have, a pleasure by telling briefly what I know of this—to us, new member of the Indian corn family.

First then, when a youngster, and chasing John Whale around the world after his fat, over on the coast of Japan once, I saw growing and fell in love at sight with the pretty *Zea*, a most beautiful plant, its foliage broad and striped with white, sometimes tinted with delicate pink, satin surfaced, and sweeping over in graceful curves, made the plant in any stage of growth highly ornamental.

Having a proclivity of laying hold of and bringing home from abroad, all manner of rare, curious things, I brought to the United States seed of the maize, for my foster father and farmer friend living westward in the State of New York, and so near its northern edge that he was within one mile of Lake Ontario, to plant and experiment with. The first season's experiment was a complete success. The *Zea* grew taller, stouter, and the foliage more beautifully marked than I had seen it in Japan. Planted at the same time with the early, eight rowed Canada corn, it ripened quite as early. But we found out long before the maturing period, that our pretty striped pet had other and better qualities than mere show. More of these were developed afterwards. The ears, though small, were numerous, and cooked green, superior I think, to any other green corn I ever tasted. The stalks contained a good deal of juice, and very sweet, but we did not discover then that it was readily convertible into sugar. Ground, it made superior bread and cakes; whole, the grains were capital chicken feed, and in all the neighborhood the boys and girls begged it for popping. It was splendid pop corn.

It was planted three years with uniform success. Then my foster father died, stranger slovens worked the farm, and between them and a frost in August, the *Zea* was annihilated. A few of the neighbors planted the Japanese a year or two, but it amalgamated readily with other kinds of corn, and lost its distinctive character, and soon faded out. There were no agricultural papers in those days to interest farmers in such things, and if there had been, I knew as little about presenting the *Zea* properly before the public through such a medium, as an animal does of astronomy.

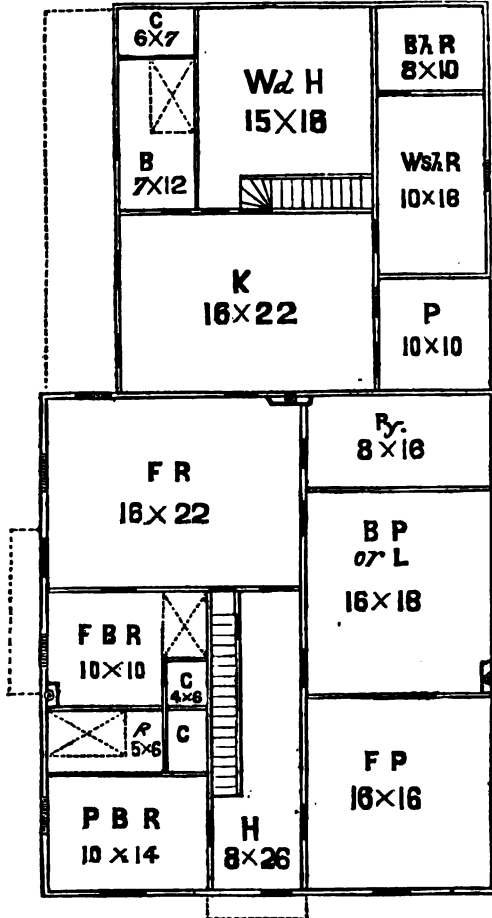
Years afterwards, traveling and sojourning in Chili, I found in common cultivation in the southern and interior regions of that country, the *Zea Caragua*, identical in every feature, so far as I am capable of judging, with the Japanese plant. There the natives cook and eat the ears in a green state, pound or grind the ripe grain, and from the superior meal, make a variety of excellent bread and cakes. Besides these uses of the *Zea*, not only the Chilenos, but the Aricaumans, and other interior native tribes manufacture from the stalks cut just when the ears are in milk, large quantities of very nice, sweet sugar, by simply bruising the canes by pounding, pressing out the juice in their rude, primitive way, and boiling, as is practiced with maple sap in the United States.

Last spring, happening to find among my old traveling "traps" a few grains of the *Zea* which I had brought from Chili in 1858, a thought occurred to me to compare it fairly with the Japanese maize that I had seen advertised for sale by B. K. Bliss, of Springfield, Mass. I accordingly procured a paper of the seed from Mr. Bliss, and planted both the Chilenos and Japanese in my garden, at the same time, giving them the same culture and care. Both grew famously, larger, and set with more ears than I had ever seen borne either in Chili or Japan, and so exactly alike in every feature, that I could discover no difference between them in any respect.

I believe that the *Zea Caragua* will ripen wherever the earliest of our early corn will, producing properly planted, as large a yield, and that if it will not produce sugar as freely as in the Andean regions of Chili, it is still a valuable acquisition on account of the very large amount of superior blade fodder it will yield. Believing that the Chileno-Japanese will prove with us as valuable as it is beautiful, I advise all who admire the blending of the beautiful with the good, to procure a sample, and give the *Zea* a fair trial. B. K. Bliss, Springfield, Mass., has a limited supply of seed to dispose of. Any further information, I happen to be possessed of in relation to the new variety of maize, I shall have great pleasure in communicating to any one addressing me, Box 114, Sub-Post Office, Station C, Philadelphia.

**WESTERN FARM HOUSE.**

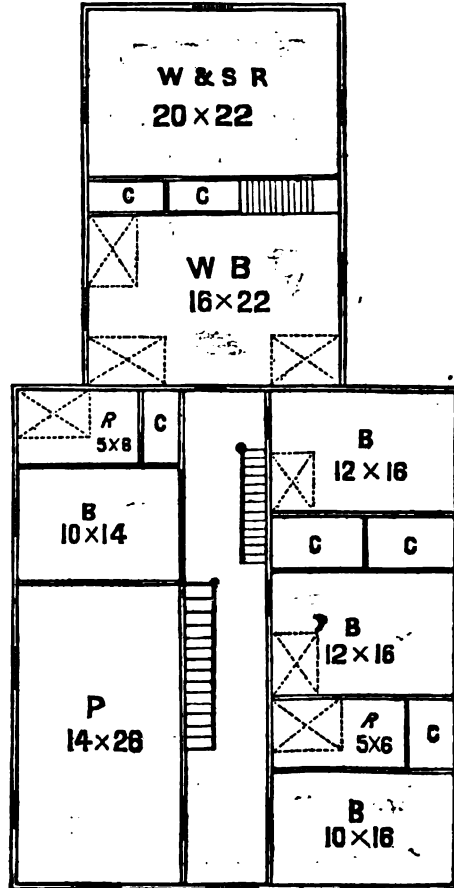
Messrs. Eds.:—The accompanying plan is for a dwelling adapted to the wants of a Western farm, and to farmers whose means enables them to build commodious as well as convenient and tasty residences.

**First Floor.**

F P—Front Parlor. B P, or L—Back Parlor or Living Room. F R—Family Room. F B R—Family Bedroom. H—Hall. P. Y—Pantry. P—Porch. K—Kitchen. W & H—Woodhouse. W & R—Washroom. B & R—Bathroom. B—Bedroom. Highway—East and West.

The main building is 40 feet by 44 outside, with parlors and pantry on west side; family room, bedroom and spare bedroom on east side, with hall and stairs in the center extending back to family room. The cellar is under the whole building, and divided by a wall into two rooms—the front room for fruit cellar, the back one for hot air furnace, wood, &c. Height, 8 feet clear. Hatchway on the west side. From the top of the cellar wall to the top of plate, 22 feet; height of rooms 10 1-2 feet, in the clear. The hall in the chamber extends the whole length of the front building, with back door to pass through

kitchen chamber and down back stairs. The chimneys can be built in the walls, as marked, in the corners of family room, bedroom, and back parlor, where the enlargements will not disfigure the rooms. The dotted lines in the partitions indicate sliding doors, by means of which the parlors are opened into one room. The sliding doors in the bedrooms are each four feet wide, and when closed, exclude from view the bed, the recess for washing and dressing at foot of bed, and the closet, leaving a pretty sitting room, 10 by 14 feet. The door nearest the closet is opened to enter recess or closet, and both doors are rolled back when the bed is occupied. The roof is hipped, with observatory in the center. The wing is 22 by 35 feet; height of walls 16 feet. It contains the kitchen, girl's bedroom and woodhouse. The piazza on the east side is six feet wide, that on the west is 10 feet wide, with 25 feet of south end

**Second Floor.**

P—Parlor. B—Bedrooms. C—Closets. W B—Workmen's Bedroom. W & S R—Weaving and Spinning Room. Garret stairs in back part of front building.

enclosed for the bath room and wash room. The cellar under kitchen is 20 feet square, height of kitchen 9 feet.

The advantages of this plan are: the large amount of room, the convenient arrangement, with the least possible amount of outside wall, and at the smallest expense. To illustrate this, compare it with another, which is very common east and west. This consists of an upright part, 18 feet by 30, containing two parlors and stairs; a side wing, 16 feet by 32, for family room and bed room, and a back wing, 18 by 35, for kitchen, pantry, and woodhouse. The wings are but one story, so the only chamber room is in the upright part. The amount of inside room, in this building, would be about 2,100 feet. Length of outside wall, 264 feet; amount of square feet to enclose building, 3,700, at one dollar per foot would cost \$3,700, for a house containing 2,100 feet of room, or \$1.76 per foot. In the plan above, the amount of inside room is 4,800 feet; length of outside wall 260; amount of square feet to enclose building 5,100, at one dollar per foot would cost \$5,100, or \$1.06 per foot of room—a gain of 70 cts. per foot; equal to \$33.60, in 4,800 feet.

Rosendale, Wis.

G. D. L.

### SORGHUM—No. 1.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "L. F.," SOMERSET, N. J.

In looking over the Reports of the Commissioner of Agriculture, I saw it stated that there were consumed in the United States, in 1865, over thirty-four millions gallons of foreign molasses, and nearly eight hundred millions pounds of foreign sugar. The inquiry naturally suggests itself, Why do we not raise our own sugar and molasses? The cultivation of sorghum is no longer an experiment. It is a settled fact that we can raise our own sirup much cheaper than we can purchase the foreign article; and although we have not yet succeeded in producing sugar in any considerable quantity, yet with a good supply of home-made sirup we can get along without the vast amount purchased, and thus increase the national wealth by saving the millions of dollars expended for these luxuries. My object in writing this article, however, is to show the profitability of sorghum, and thus to direct attention more particularly to its cultivation. I will give the cost of production of one acre.

To rent of land .....	\$15.00
" preparing land and planting .....	8.00
" plowing cane three times .....	8.00
" hoeing cane once .....	5.00
" stripping, topping, and cutting .....	10.00
" binding and carting to mill .....	8.00
" gathering, threshing, and cleaning seed .....	5.00
<b>Total cost .....</b>	<b>\$54.00</b>
By 200 gallons sirup at \$1.00 .....	\$200.00
Less cost of manufacturing .....	70.00
	\$130.00
By 50 bushels seed at 30c .....	15.00
	<b>\$145.00</b>
<b>Net profit per acre .....</b>	<b>\$91.00</b>

Let us compare this with a corn crop, and see how the account stands.

Cost of raising one acre of corn, say .....	\$25.00
50 bushels corn, at \$1.00 .....	\$50.00
Fodder .....	5.00
<b>Total production .....</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>
	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Profit .....</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>

Showing an excess of profit in favor of sorghum, of \$61.00.

But it may be said that sorghum will not yield as I have estimated. My experience has been that I can raise four gallons of sirup where I can raise one bushel of corn, and land that will yield 50 bushels corn, at a cost of only \$25 per acre, will readily yield 200 gallons sirup, if \$54 per acre be expended judiciously in its cultivation. To show that the yield of sorghum is actually greater than that of corn, I give the average yield and price of each in the State of Pennsylvania for the year 1865. The figures are taken from the report above quoted:

Sorghum, 121 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, at \$1.08 $\frac{1}{2}$ .....	\$125.59
Corn, 40 bushels, at 80c .....	32.00

It is more than probable that in this case the majority of farmers expended no more in the cultivation of the sorghum than of the corn, as the most of those whom I have seen, raise, plant, and tend it the same as corn; the only extra cost being in manufacturing. As cane is so profitable, it is strange that it is not more extensively cultivated. There are many farmers in this section who raise enough for home consumption; and they all, so far as I know, prefer good sorghum sirup to that usually purchased at the stores.

The fear of overstocking the market need not deter any from engaging in the business, as there are very few places where the supply is equal to the demand. For the benefit of those who have had no experience in its cultivation, I propose to write a series of articles for THE AMERICAN FARMER, giving at the proper season, full directions for every part of the operation.

At a recent discussion before the Maine Board of Agriculture, Mr. Wasson of Hancock County, advocated the painting of barns. For his own use he applied a paint made of one bushel of lime, four pounds of salt, two pounds white vitriol, and it has stood the weather remarkably. Any color of paint may be put in to give a shade that may be desired. Add water to make the wash about the consistency to be applied with a wide brush.

**THE COST OF FENCES.**—It is stated that the cost of the farm fences in Ohio is greater than the value of all the domestic animals in the State. The same may be said of Pennsylvania, New York, and perhaps every other old State.

WORK and study.

## OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

### HOW TO IMPROVE EXHAUSTED SOILS.

THE exorbitant prices of good land in the older States, have led many farmers to inquire if it would not be cheaper to purchase and improve the worn-out lands, instead of paying \$200 per acre for choice farms. Believing that in many cases it would be the better plan, I submit the following hints.

It is assumed that the farmer wishes to improve his soil in the most *economical* manner. To do this *time* is necessary; for although it may be done in a short time by the liberal application of manures, it will generally be found that the expense of the manures will overbalance the benefits derived by having it done quickly, instead of doing it slowly, and bringing to his aid the natural assistants, rain, frost, heat, &c.

In many cases the soil may be improved by merely subsoiling it. Where the soil has been plowed only to a depth of four or five inches, the upper surface has become exhausted, while the hard bottom formed by the action of the plow has effectually prevented the growing crop from sending its roots deep into the earth for moisture and support; consequently, but little strength having been drawn from the subsoil, it still retains a large part of its primitive fertility, and needs but to be loosened so as to allow the roots of plants to penetrate it, to yield remunerative returns. In subsoiling, however, a judicious system should be followed. If the plow is so run as to turn up several inches of new soil at once, the land will be but little better for it. The better way is to plow it every autumn, if possible, each time turning up one inch of new soil, which, by being exposed to the frost during winter, will be effectually pulverized and deprived of all injurious qualities. If this process is too slow, an inch may be turned up in the spring, but this is not advisable. It is, of course, expected that the farmer will apply fertilizers if needed, as the subsoiling is only meant to assist in the bringing up process.

The great secret in improving land, however, lies in having plenty of manure; and of this, the farmer cannot well have too much. Some good farmers have a practice of bringing home a load of manure of some kind, whenever they take away a load of grain, hay, straw, &c. This rule I would amend so far as not to take away such products of the farm as can be advantageously fed to stock upon it.\* It rarely happens that hay and corn cannot be converted into pork, beef, or mutton, at a handsome profit, besides leaving the manure to enrich the farm. Hogs, espe-

cially, if furnished with a bountiful supply of "working capital" will make large quantities of choice manure. It often happens, too, that during the winter months, leaves from the woods, muck, the washings from the roads, and such like materials, may be gathered and drawn to the yard, or applied directly to the fields, when otherwise hands and teams would be idle. All such opportunities of procuring enriching materials should be improved, as the more manure, the more grain. The manner of applying manure, I do not attempt to describe, as this is to be made the subject of a separate essay.

*Green manuring* is another important aid in improving the soil, and consists merely in plowing under growing crops of clover, rye, buckwheat, or whatever else is most convenient to raise. The crop should be turned under *thoroughly*, and when in luxuriant growth. A dressing of lime will be found beneficial after an application of vegetable manure, whether it has been in the green or rotted state.

*Draining* is also highly beneficial to some soils, but having been made the subject of a previous essay, will not be treated at length here. It is the foundation of all improvements in farming, and as the country grows older, we shall have to devote more attention to it than has hitherto been the case. Greater benefit will be derived from underdraining a poor farm than any other method.

I have not attempted in the foregoing remarks to give a plan, (as some do,) which every one is expected to follow, as it is impossible to give a rule that will suit every case. The difference in the circumstances of the owner, the position of the land, and other causes, render it necessary for every one to judge for himself of the system he should pursue, and of all minor particulars. F.

Somerset, N. J.

### CULTURE OF THE BLACKBERRY

A LIGHT, sandy, moist soil, produces the best returns, both in quality and quantity of this excellent fruit. In the fall, open furrows ten feet apart, with a plow, and fill with muck, strewing it along the furrows, and leave exposed to the frosts and winter weather. Early in spring set the plants four feet apart on the muck, which will take 1,089 to the acre. The space between the rows, while the plants are small, may be occupied with some crop that will not interfere with the plants. The roots follow the muck, and grow more vigorously than the side shoots, and the strong plants come up near where wanted to grow and produce fruit the following year, and should stand one foot apart in the row. Keep well cultivated to destroy weeds, &c.

\* This practice is too common, and cannot be too strongly condemned. It is one of the principal causes of the deterioration of the soil. We should feed all the hay and grain we can on the farm, and apply the manure to the soil.—Eos.



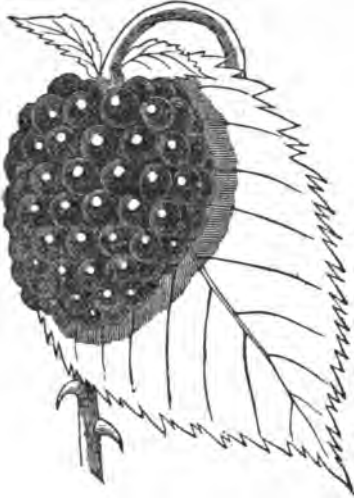
**KITTATINNY BLACKBERRY.**

The tops of the canes should be stopped at five feet by pinching off at an even height; this induces the growth of side branches and the formation of fruit buds near the ground, and does away with the necessity of trellises, stakes, &c., to hold up the plants. The following winter or spring the laterals should be shortened in to a pyramidal form, somewhat resembling a dwarf pear tree, when properly grown. Thus treated, they yield more fruit of a better quality than when allowed to grow naturally. To insure a good crop requires close attention, the canes kept thin and well headed back, and on light soil an occasional dressing of manure, muck, or other fertilizer, adds to the quality of the fruit. The old canes after bearing and having their fruit removed, should be cut out in the fall.

The blackberry is propagated by means of suckers, or pieces of root may be planted, from which plants will grow. Blackberries are a profitable fruit to grow for market, or make into wine. Three quarts of berries and three pounds of sugar, with a little water, will make a gallon of excellent wine, highly recommended for its medicinal qualities. The poorer, and the over-ripe, or soft berries, may very profitably be made into wine at home, and only the finest and most perfect fruit sent to market, which will readily sell at a good price.

**VARIETIES.**—The *New Rochelle* is the most generally cultivated. It is hardy and very productive. The fruit is large, sometimes measuring four inches in circumference, holds long in bearing, colors

some time before ripe and is often gathered in this state, and is sour; when fully ripe, it is soft, and does not carry well. Very sweet and melting.



**Kittatinny.**—A new berry, very lately brought before the public; excellent and hardy so far as proved. The foliage is rather more coarsely serrate than the New Rochelle. The berries are longer, more irregular than the New Rochelle. The pipe are large, with small seeds, juicy, sweet, and of a true blackberry flavor. See cut preceding page.

**Wilson.**—The Wilson is an early, productive, excellent, and sweet berry, of good size, and ripe when it is black. Ripens very even. It yields the bulk of its crop before the New Rochelle and Kittatinny are ready for market. The plant proves hardy in the latitude of New York city. These three kinds furnish fruit through the season, and are the most desirable for cultivation.



H.

### SWEET POTATO CULTURE.

**Plants.**—If but a small patch is to be raised, plants are best obtained of those who furnish them for sale. They can be grown as follows: early in April, depending upon the latitude, put the potatoes in a hot bed; if of large size, split them in halves lengthways, laying the flat side down, so near together as almost to touch; cover with about two inches of fine rich mold, the richer the better. When the plants push above ground, add an inch or more of soil. Water with warm water occasionally; protect the bed nights, and give air and sunshine ple-

sant days to make them hardy. When wanted to set, uncover the potato, and pull off the best slips, and recover, to let the small ones improve.

**Soil and Planting.**—A warm, sandy loam, with a good exposure to the sun, is best adapted to the culture. Mark the rows, which should run north and south, 3 1-2 feet apart, by a mere scratch of the surface; on these marks spread liberally, good barn manure; then turn the earth from each way over the manure with a plow or shovel, according to the size of the patch, and form a ridge eight or ten inches high, the base of which should not be disturbed by the operation, and should be a foot wide; the top when finished, three or four inches wide, on which to set the plants. As soon as danger of frosts are passed, the plants should be set 15 to 18 inches apart in the rows. Set the plants down to the first leaf, pressing the soil close to the root its whole length. Moist weather is best for setting; but set in the after part of the day, well watered and shaded, they will do nearly or quite as well.

A close hard bottom is necessary to induce the tubers to grow chubby; for this purpose they are often grown by laying strips of sod along the bottom of the ridges, and placing the manure on this. Manure does not injure the sweet potato, like the Irish; but to produce abundantly, the more used, the better the crop. After culture consists in keeping down the weeds with the hoe or rake, hauling the soil upwards towards the plants. Lift the vines, and keep them on the top of the ridge, several times during the season, to prevent their rooting at the joints, and to admit the warm rays of the sun to the ground.

**Gathering.**—In August you can run the finger down beside the vine, and when a large tuber is felt sever it from the stem, remove it, and replace the dirt, leaving the others to grow. After the frosts have killed the vines, select the first clear, dry day, and turn them out with a fork, first cutting the vines with a scythe. Dig in the forenoon, and let them lie till the middle of the afternoon, when they will be dry, if fully exposed on the ridges. Pick them up, handling carefully, not to bruise. For preserving for winter, provide suitable boxes or barrels, take them into the field, and have a quantity of straw cut fine. Pack your potatoes as carefully as you would eggs, using first a layer of straw and then a layer of potatoes, and thus alternately, till the box or barrel is full, finishing with straw. Remove the packages to a dry cellar or room, where there will be no frost, and will be kept dry and warm. If placed in a cellar they must be raised from the bottom on boards, and kept away from the wall. Keeping warm and dry are absolute essentials for preservation.

Conn.

W. H. W

### THE CAUSES OF "WINTER-KILL" IN PEACH TREES, AND THE BEST REMEDY.

SOME years since, in the early spring, while walking in one of the inland cities of this State, I observed a single limb of a peach tree in full bloom, while the rest of the tree, like other trees at the season, showed hardly a sign of life. Being somewhat arborical in my habits, I stopped to ascertain the cause of this eccentricity, which I was not long in doing. The tree stood near the southeast corner of a building, and this blooming limb projected by and close to it on the south side. A corresponding root, doubtless took the same direction, and both receiving extra heat reflected from the building, explained the mystery, and taught the observer a lesson on the effect of local climate.

Peaches are not generally a successful crop in this latitude, any great distance from bodies of water of considerable size. Still there are exceptions, and it seldom fails that some trees and fruit are spared, in districts where, and in seasons when they have generally failed. What can cause this difference in the same neighborhood, except a difference in climate caused by a variety of aspects and surroundings.

The peach, though more hardy as respects extreme cold in mid-winter than many suppose, is extremely sensitive to any increase of temperature above the mean in fall, winter, and spring; and if circumstances are such as to produce an undue and immature growth in late summer or a premature development of the fruit buds in late winter or early spring, severe frosts following, are pretty sure to do injury to the trees, or fruit, or both, and you will seldom fail to see the most injury done to those trees, (other things being equal) which have made the greatest growth, the current or previous season. What is needed to the success of the peach in the Northern States, is to prevent an excessive and immature growth late in the season, and a premature development of the fruit buds in late winter and early spring.

Bodies of water which freeze have this effect. First, because water heats and cools much slower than land; and second, because they expel heat while freezing, thus lengthening out the fall, giving more time to the new wood and fruit buds to ripen and absorb heat while thawing, thus preventing premature development in spring. The fact that the peach prospers around such bodies of water, is at least *prima facie* evidence that the injury that is called "winter-kill," is done in the fall or spring; for those are the only times when such bodies of water can have any effect.

Deep bodies of water which do not freeze, have the same effect from being slower conductors of heat

than land. They are generally larger, and their influence from that cause in consequence more extensive. They also have the effect in mid-winter which frozen bodies do not, to modify the surrounding temperature, as their surfaces are never below the freezing point.

Having now given my views as to the cause, I follow the programme as laid down at the head, and give my opinion of the remedy, which I will preface by saying, that I have little faith in the protection which is so generally recommended, such as high, tight fences, belts of trees, screens of bushes, hills, and buildings, "to break the wind." Whatever has this effect, promotes early and late frosts, which are the greatest enemies of peaches. Whatever prevents these frosts is the remedy we are seeking.

Remedy first. Plant your trees on dry ground. All know that wet or damp ground is more frosty than dry. Second, plant upon the north side of a hill, a belt of timber, an old orchard, or a building, for the reason that in the fall and spring, when the sun is low in the south, it has little effect to promote development of the buds in such locations. Third, plant your trees adjoining lower land. The preventives of frost are, fogs, clouds, whatever shades at any height, and currents of air. Fogs and clouds we cannot control; but currents of air pass up and down hills, in every still, cloudless night, the colder air of the hills seeking the lowest ground, and displacing the warmer air of the valleys which has been heated during sunshine, and which being lighter is forced upward. Fourth, do not plant your trees on very rich ground. Remember that trees of a moderate growth stand frost best. After a tree, and more especially the peach, comes into bearing, its growth is very much checked; its wood more solid, better ripened, and much less likely to "winter-kill." Manure, then, promotes fruitfulness, improves the quality of the fruit, with less danger of stimulating an undue growth. I might say much more did space permit, explanatory of the positions I have taken; but after what I have said, the novice, by noticing the circumstances attending failure and success in his neighborhood, will be able generally to ascertain the causes of both. And though he may not have the benefit of contiguous water, there are few farms in the Northern States where this luscious fruit may not be enjoyed.

Muskegon, Mich.

S. R. F.

MR. PARDEE, of Illinois, has found that lime slaked in salt brine, sown broadcast, had kept insects from strawberries.

THREE hundred Scotch farmers are on their way to settle in Texas.

**CULTURE OF THE GOOSEBERRY.**

PLANT bushes of one year's growth, in well prepared, deep soil, free from water, 4-5 feet each way. Allow but one branch to grow the first year. The second year several shoots will spring up; allow five or six to grow, and suppress all others. Train upwards. When side shoots appear to the length of six or eight inches, shorten to four. The terminal bud will start; when grown a few inches, pinch back to a single leaf. The next spring cut back the

**HOUGHTON SEEDLING.**

side branches to the first pinching. All the laterals are treated in the same way. Let the main stems or frame work prolong themselves undisturbed while the side branches are kept short, in the manner above indicated, in order to keep the bushes open and free to admit light and air.

The gooseberry is very subject to mildew; to prevent this, *open culture is essential*. A further preventive or remedy, is to use a solution of the following:—take a quart of dry, unleached ashes, and put in a vessel that will hold about five gallons; pour three gallons of boiling water over them, and

stir a few minutes; then fill the vessel with cold water, use as hot as the hand can bear without scalding. Throw the hot liquid forcibly into the bush with a garden syringe, drenching every leaf and berry, both upper and lower side. Early morning, when the dew is on, is the best time to do it. Commence when the fruit is first formed, and continue from time to time as signs of mildew appear, till the fruit appears. It is unnecessary to add that the ground should be kept clear of weeds and well cultivated, and after coming into bearing be well mulched. The gooseberry is propagated from cuttings only. Late in October, or in early spring, take cuttings of well ripened wood, of the last growth, ten or twelve inches long; plant them in a well prepared bed about half their length, first cutting out all the buds that go below the surface of the ground. There is a very large variety of this fruit, most of which is subject to mildew in our climate, especially the foreign, which are very large sized generally. In color we have red, yellow, green, and white.

*Red Warrington*.—Fruit large, roundish oblong, hairy; flavor, first rate; branches drooping.

*Houghton*.—The most healthy variety we have; vigorous grower, branches rather slender; very productive. Fruit rather below medium; smooth, pale red, tender and sweet.

*Part's Golden Fleece*.—Yellow. Fruit large, oval, hairy; flavor, first rate; branches spreading.

*Yellow Ball*.—Size, medium, roundish, smooth; flavor, first rate; branches erect.

*Parkinson's Laurel*.—A green variety; large, obovate, downy; flavor, first rate; branches erect.

*Pitmaston Green Gage*.—Fruit small, and hangs long, ovate, smooth, rich and excellent; branches drooping.

*Woodward's Whitesmith*.—Fruit large, somewhat oval, roundish oblong, downy; flavor, first rate; branches erect.

*Taylor's Bright Venus*.—Medium size; hangs a long time, obovate, hairy, and flavor first rate; branches erect.

A. M.

At the sale of Mr. John Snell's thoroughbred stock, at Edmonton, C. W., January 20th, Shorthorn bulls ranged, in gold, from \$100 to \$250; cows from \$65 to \$250; Galloway bulls, from \$40 to \$150; cows, \$68 to \$160; Leicester ewes, \$50 to \$85; ram lambs \$21 to \$59.

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Tomatoes a Protection against Borers.**

Mr. H. J. Foster, of Quincy, Mass., informs *The New England Farmer* that he has an apple orchard which has been badly infested by the borer. Two or three years ago while going over the orchard in the fall and removing from ten to fifteen young borers from most of the trees, he noticed that invariably there were no signs of their work to be discovered wherever a chance plant of the tomato had sprung up from seed in soil or manure. Acting on this discovery, he has since planted tomatoes extensively about his apple trees and quince bushes, and finds it a complete protection, as the beetle which deposits her eggs during the summer months upon the bark of the tree near the ground, shuns every tree near which a tomato plant is growing.

**Cranberries.**

A correspondent of *The New England Farmer* writes that six or seven acres of meadow in the town of Essex, Ct., were prepared and stocked with cranberry plants four or five years ago. This last fall eight hundred bushels of cranberries were gathered on this patch.

**Slobbering in Horses.**

A correspondent of *The Boston Cultivator* says that this is a disease in horses. Saltpeter, a tablespoonful for a dose, he has found to cure the worst case he ever had, and has not found it necessary ever to give a fourth dose. He gives a tablespoonful in the morning, and in three days, if the horse is not free from it, he repeats the dose.

**The Wild Grasses of the West.**

A Kansas correspondent of *The New York Tribune* says that wild grasses improve in quality as one goes West. As far West as Colorado the dead grass is nearly as good as oats. In Kansas, some good farmers think the native grass as valuable as timothy.

**Quantity of Flax Seed per Acre.**

*The North Western Farmer* thinks one-half bushel per acre is enough flax seed to be sown on an acre of well-prepared ground, as when sown thicker, the plants are weaker, branch but little, and the bolls are not well filled, while the seed is smaller and lighter.

**Heading off the Woodchucks.**

"S. H. N.," Erie Co., N. Y., writes *The Rural New Yorker* that his method is to fill their holes with Canada thistles that have wilted half a day in the sun. "Of nine holes thus treated but one 'chuck' ever got out or in that I could discover, and then some three feet from the old hole. I filled this hole again, and that was the last of Mr. Woodchuck in my cornfield." So Canada thistles are good for something.

**Beans for Sheep.**

A correspondent of *The Country Gentleman* who has this year 1,700 bushels of beans to feed to his sheep, considers them worth equally as much as corn. He says it is necessary to feed carefully at first, mixing in some lighter feed, till the sheep become accustomed to them, as beans will clog them sooner than any grain he has used.

**A Simple Corn Marker.**

A farmer at Chesterfield, Ill., describes for the benefit of the readers of *The Prairie Farmer*, a simple and cheap corn ground marker. It is made by putting a short axle in the forward wheels of a wagon, and a long one in the hind ones; couple them together by a six feet stick pinned on to the center of each axle, with two braces pinned on the hind axle, and running to the center of the coupling; the wagon tongue can be put on the front axle by two small iron bolts put through the ends of the hounds and axle; the axles can be made of poles. Put the front wheels four feet apart, and the others twelve feet, though the length of the axle can be made to suit. Sixty acres in a day can be marked with it. It runs light, and marks a good mark, and one that will show after a rain as good as a sled mark.

**Petroleum Paint.**

L. H. Tucker, of *The Country Gentleman*, in his notes on Long Island farming, thus alludes to a barn painted with petroleum: On the farm of R. W. Titus, I examined a barn painted six years ago with petroleum (the heavy sort), mixed with Ohio mineral or earth-paint. It appeared not to have suffered in the slightest degree by weather and time, the coat being complete and unchanged. The barn is ninety feet long and thirty-two wide, with sixteen feet posts, the whole surface painted being about 4,000 square feet. The entire cost of the petroleum, the paint, and of labor, was not over twenty-four dollars. It would probably be one-third more at the present time. It is obviously a very cheap and perfect mode of coating wooden buildings, adapted even to handsome dwellings.

**Ashes.**

*The Maine Farmer* knows a farmer who went into the soap-making business some years ago for the purpose of securing the ashes, after having been leached, to apply to his land. He owned a large farm, the soil being chiefly a clayey loam, and any one visiting the farm now, who was acquainted with it before its owner began to apply the ashes, would be astonished at the results they have accomplished. He applied them at the rate of from 150 to 200 bushels per acre, to different crops and in every conceivable way.

**Drink for Milk Cows.**

Cows that give milk in winter, says *The Maine Farmer*, will add much to their profit by giving them a bucketful of warm water twice a day with a little meal or even the slops of the family in it. Every one has noticed how an extremely cold day will affect their milk, or whenever they become wet in summer. A little salt, with meal floating on the surface of such a drink, will soon teach any cow how to drink it.

**Abortion.**

Mr. Lyman B. Sanford writes to the New York Farmer's Club that while in Canada lately, he paid an old English farmer ten dollars for a secret remedy for the disease in cows of abortion, which was simply to feed with the salt for each one about a teaspoonful of bone pounded or ground to a dust. As a result in a dairy of 32 cows he had lost none, while his neighbor's flocks were as badly afflicted as ever.—*New England Farmer*.

**Beeswax Legs.**

The hoots are chopped off, and the other portions are cracked and boiled thoroughly. From the surface of this boiled mass, about one pint of pure *neat's foot oil* is skimmed, which is unsurpassed by any other oleaginous matter for harness, shoes, &c. After the oil is taken off, the water is strained to separate from it any fatty particles that may remain, and then is boiled again, until upon trying, it is found it will settle into a stiff jelly. It is then poured into flat-bottomed dishes, and when cold cut into suitably sized pieces. It hardens in a few days, and you will then have a very fine article of *glue*, free from impurities, of every kind, sufficient for family use for a twelvemonth. By taking a portion of this glutinous substance before it becomes too thick, and brushing it over pieces of silk, you will have just as much *court plaster* as you desire, inodorous, tenacious, and entirely free from those poisonous qualities which cause (as much of the article sold by apothecaries does) inflammation, when applied to scratches, cuts and sores.—*Cor. Germantown Telegraph.*

**Value of Sheep in Ohio Agriculture.**

A correspondent of *The Ohio Farmer*, in commenting on the statement that "there is no one agricultural interest, in Ohio, equal to that of wool-growing," makes the following quotations from official statistics:

Value of sheep in Ohio in 1866.....	\$20,391,212
" cattle " " .....	29,674,519
" horses " " .....	47,490,425
Value produced by sheep in 1865, about.....	12,000,000
Value of wheat crop .....	20,000,000
" corn " " .....	85,000,000
" hay " " .....	22,000,000

If these figures are correct the cattle interest in Ohio is nearly 50 per cent greater, and the horse interest is more than 133 per cent greater than the interest in wool-growing. The wheat crop is 66 per cent, more valuable than the sheep product in wool and mutton; the crop of Indian corn worth nearly three times as much, and that of hay almost double.

**Useful Birds.**

We learn from *The New York Observer* that "The English sparrow has been successfully introduced into Jersey City, and five of our largest parks. Their increase is so great that they are now locating in the adjoining and river towns, probably from Central Park. They are a little larger than the Chipping bird, and similar in color, having a strong beak and a pleasant chirp, but no song. If treated kindly, and protected from the owls by bird houses on trees, twelve to fifteen feet from the ground, they readily occupy them, and will prove a complete remedy for all kinds of tree worms, caterpillars, &c., and insects generally. In the 'city of birds,' (Jersey City,) the owls have made sad havoc with the sparrows this winter, until the reward of \$10 per head has caused the destruction of twenty of these midnight robbers. It has been estimated that there were ten thousand of the sparrows in Jersey City on November last. They are well protected by the police and the city laws, five dollars being the fine for killing one of them, or catching them. If fed from November until April, they will remain all winter, to the delight of the children and lovers of birds.

Double boxes, 13 inches long and 6 inches square, slanting roof, and one and a half inch round entrance at each end, are the best approved."

**Smut in Wheat.**

David Hill, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., sends to *The Rural New Yorker* his method of preparing seed wheat to prevent its smutting, and gives an instructive experience. He says:—"Soaking the seed wheat in chamber-lye that has been kept several weeks and become quite offensive to smell, and afterwards coating with lime, will prove an unfailing remedy. My method of preparation is to clean a space on the barn floor and place the wheat to be sown in a pile thereon. Then pour the liquid on, being sure to wet every kernel. Then sift quick-lime over the pile and thoroughly mix with the shovel. Use quick-lime enough to dry all the dampness, and the seed is ready to sow. In 1833 I sowed a field of nine acres. I prepared the seed in the above manner, and on sowing found that I had not quite seed enough, so I went to the granary and got a little unprepared wheat and sowed one "ridge" and a half with it. Not a particle of smut appeared in any other part of the field, but this portion, (which by the way lay directly in the middle of the field,) was considerably affected with it. I have known others to have a similar experience.

**Potato Bug.**

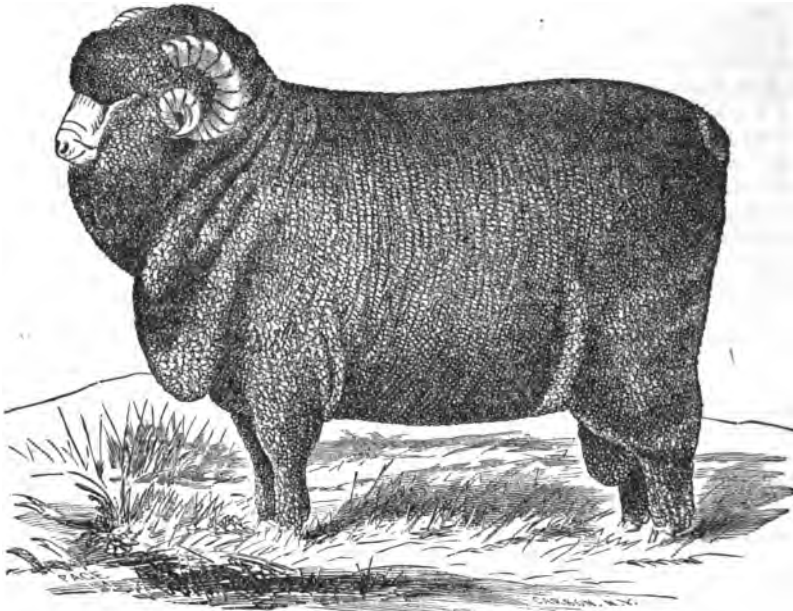
According to a statement in *The Wisconsin Farmer* the Colorado potato bug is moving eastward at the rate of 20 or 30 miles a year. The line of march, crescent shaped, had reached Madison, Wis., last summer. Dr. Fitch estimates the Eastern progress at fifteen miles per year.

**Bones.**

*The Massachusetts Farmer* gives the following directions for dissolving bones: Take a few barrels,—old sugar casks are as good as any,—and first put in at the bottom a layer of wood ashes, then a layer of bones, and then upon it another layer of wood ashes, and so on alternately till the barrels or casks are filled. If the bones are partially broken with an ax or otherwise first, it will facilitate their dissolution. These ashes now must be kept moist by adding water from time to time, and if they stand out doors under the shade of some old tree or on the north side of a building, will require less frequent attention. An occasional wetting with chamber-lye is beneficial. In from ten to six months, according to the size of the bones and the care with which the ashes are moistened, the bones will be dissolved and the compost is fit to use. This is the most economical method of reducing them, and if every farmer would pick up the bones that are scattered about his premises and treat them in this way he would show signs of thrift.

**Remedy for Moles.**

Cut apples or potatoes in pieces about the size of a pea, and roll them in strychnine or arsenic. Then make several small holes where the moles run, and drop one or more of the pieces in each hole. In a short time the moles will disappear. Another exchange says that a few seeds of the castor bean, scattered about their haunts, will destroy ground moles.



**INFANTADO RAM, "YOUNG HERO,"**

Of Hammond Stock. Got by Sweepstakes out of one of Bottom and Benedict's best Hammond Ewes. Weight of fleece, 25½ lbs. Now owned by F. L. Upham & Sons, Weathersfield, Vt.

### COAL TAR---BEWARE!

MESSRS. EDS.:—A few years since we planted out an orchard of about an hundred choice apple trees. All lived and grew nicely the first season. The following winter, about a dozen of the trees were gnawed badly with mice. The following spring we took the gnawed trees away, and planted good thrifty trees in their stead. The following fall or early winter, we thought to apply a remedy to the trees against mice-gnawing, and we accomplished it most effectually by applying a thin coating of coal tar to about forty young apple trees, which were most exposed to mice. Not one of the tarred trees was gnawed, but death took hold of every one of them. In view of our experience, we would say to the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER, that we are convinced it is best to beware of coal tar, and not apply it to tender vegetation; but if your readers will not believe, then let them try it, be honest, and report their experience through THE FARMER. We are aware that the *least* imaginable quantity of coal tar can do no harm, and we are also aware that *The Rural New Yorker* has given countenance to the theory that coal tar is good to prevent gnawing, &c., with a caution, "care must be taken, not to use it in *excessive* quantities." We would like to know what is meant by "excessive quantities." We have yet to learn that any recipe has been given for using coal tar upon smooth, young apple trees, or other vegetation, and so long

as there is no specified *rule*, we think it safe to keep coal tar off tender vegetation. B. D.  
North Chili, N. Y.

### INDIANA.

MESSRS. EDS.:—Wheat looks remarkably well in this section, since the snow has gone off. Times are dull here—nothing doing but drawing wood. We fed our cattle this morning the first time, as they have been in our stalk fields all winter, and done well, and some of them will make good beef. I have been trying an experiment this week by layering grey willow on each side of a log cross way, across a swamp on my farm. The muck on each side is about six feet deep, and has caused me a great amount of trouble, as the stock have to get acquainted with the ground, and some get very badly mired. The thought was suggested by seeing an article in *The Prairie Farmer*, that willow and soft maple would grow from layers of any size. One of my neighbors had some young willows, and with his consent I went with two hands and team, and in half a day we had two rows, 200 feet long. I laid one down in muck on the side of bridge, and the next two feet ahead in muck, and layered it down; another, and so on to the end. Willow about 8 inches in diameter, and 11 to 15 feet long. Have covered with muck, except the tops.—J. W. P., Vermillion Co., Ind., Feb. 16.

## Horticultural.

### THE GARDEN IN APRIL.

At the best, gardening in March is not agreeable, and we only work at it then, to gain time. The cold, raw winds usually prevailing in that month, do not attract the amateur into the garden. But April brings a change. The last vestiges of winter have disappeared, the ground is becoming warm and dry, the early flowers are blooming, the buds are swelling, and the birds cheer the gardener at his work. Even the soil freshly stirred, has a wholesome, refreshing fragrance, grateful to us after the long frosts and snows of winter. Every gardener is now full of excitement, anxious to get the start of his neighbor, and produce the first dish of lettuce, radishes, green peas, &c. Still, it is well to make haste wisely, and not stir the earth until it is dry, and beginning to get warm, so that an active fermentation may ensue upon stirring the chemical ingredients of the soil.

We gave instructions last month for the sowing of peas, onions, spinach, beets, radishes, and lettuce. In those latitudes where the condition of the soil did not admit of working then, those vegetables are first to be attended to now. Next comes—

**Asparagus.**—Old beds that received a dressing of manure last fall, should have it dug in now, being careful not to dig so deep as to disturb the roots. Where manuring was neglected then, a light dressing of fine manure should be applied and dug in now. A light sowing of salt is considered beneficial. If a new bed is to be commenced, and roots one or two years old can be readily obtained, a year may be gained by using such. A deep, mellow loam, well drained, should be selected. Dig deep and make rich, as for other vegetables. Set the roots in drills, 3 feet apart, 1 foot apart in the drills, and deep enough to cover the crowns of the roots about 4 inches. This is the planting of asparagus simplified. If plants are to be raised from seed, sow it in drills one foot apart.

**Cabbages.**—Plants wintered in cold frames, or started in hot beds, should be planted out. They should be hardened by exposure in the beds to all the cold they will bear, without danger, and transplanted into soil in good condition, about two feet by 1. The roots of the plants should be saturated with water before removal from the bed.

**Cauliflower.**—Transplant same as cabbages. Genuine bone dust is a good fertilizer both for cabbages and cauliflower, and is believed to be a preventive of club-foot. Use about a ton per acre.

**Carrot.**—Sow for early crop, the Early Horn, in rich, mellow soil, in drills 11 inches apart. Cover lightly, and roll. A small bed will generally suffice for an ordinary family.

**Celery.**—Sow the early part of the month in a rich bed, sheltered from cold winds, Turner's Dwarf White, or Early White Solid, broadcast, or in very shallow drills 3 or 4 inches apart.

**Cress, or Pepper Grass.**—Sow early in the month, the

Curled variety, in shallow drills, 11 inches apart. As it quickly runs to seed, successive sowings should be made every fortnight. It is used as a salad.

**Horse Radish.**—Is propagated from small rootlets, broken off the main root when preparing it for use. They should be 4 to 6 inches long, planted in rows 20 by 12 inches, in holes made by dibbers, 6 or 8 inches deep, so as to cover about 2 inches. It may be treated like parsneps, and left in the ground all winter.

**Hot Bed.**—Requires close attention, watering often at the close of the day, airing through the day, protecting at night, if very cold, and weeding at the first appearance of weeds. The bit of soil enclosed in a hot bed frame is altogether too valuable to grow weeds.

**Parsley.**—Sow the Dwarf Curled, early in the month, in drills 12 inches apart. It is a long time germinating.

**Parsnep.**—May be sown any time this month, and cultivated the same as carrot. The Hollow Crowned is the best variety.

**Potato.**—We are not much in favor of getting the potato into the ground very early, and would not plant until after the middle of the month. Then the early varieties can be planted, either in hills or drills. A little warm manure in the hill or drill, will forward their germination. A medium-sized tuber, cut so as to plant 5 or 6 eyes in a place, we prefer. Ash-Leaved Kidney is the earliest variety, but very small. Early Goodrich is the best and most productive. Early Dykeman, Mountain June, and Buckeye, are good early varieties.

**Rhubarb.**—No garden should be without a few plants of rhubarb for early pies, tarts, or sauce. It is easily propagated by dividing the roots, as every eye will make a new plant. The soil should be in good condition, and the roots transplanted early in the month, about 2 1-3 feet each way. Linnæus is one of the best, and earliest. Victoria is larger, coarser, and later. Where roots cannot be obtained, the seed may be sown the same as asparagus, and transplanted when a year old.

**Salsify, or Oyster Plant.**—This vegetable is worthy of a more extended cultivation. It is better than the carrot or parsnep, and should be cultivated in the same manner. Like the latter, it may be left in the ground all winter.

**Turnips.**—Are not generally very much esteemed for summer use, but for the sake of variety most gardeners would wish to raise a small bed. They should be grown quickly, on light, warm soil, well enriched, in 11-inch drills, lightly covered. Purple-Top, and Strap-Leaved is the best; White Dutch, good.

**Weeds.**—Be on the lookout for weeds, and give battle on their first appearance. When very young they are most easily destroyed by means of the steel rake, (where the rows are wide enough to admit of it,) or by the pronged hoe, otherwise potato hook, when too narrow for the rake.

There are other garden crops, such as beans, early corn, &c., which some sow in April, but in this latitude they had better be deferred until next month.

### FRUIT GARDEN.

Every farmer should have a separate plot allotted to the fruit garden, which should be thoroughly drained,



made rich, and kept cleanly cultivated. The soil may be a little heavier than that allotted to the vegetable garden. The fruit garden should have especial attention this month.

**Blackberries.**—Dorchester and Lawton, well tried varieties; Kittatinny and Wilson new ones, are the only kinds cultivated to any extent. They may be planted in a border along the fence, or in rows, 6 by 6 feet, for garden culture. They should be carefully transplanted, and the canes cut down to the ground. The new canes start from buds under ground.

**Currants.**—Old bushes require to be thinned out, and new ones planted. They are quite easily propagated by cuttings, but the better way is to purchase well-rooted plants at the nurseries. La Versailles, White Grape, Red Dutch, and White Dutch are the leading varieties.

**Cherry.**—Pruned so as to be of dwarf habit, may be tolerated in the fruit garden to a limited extent. May Duke, Black Tartarian, Knight's Early Black, Governor Wood, and Yellow Spanish, are among the best.

**Gooseberries.**—Horticulturists are giving up in despair, the larger English varieties, but the American and Houghton Seedlings are easily grown, and make excellent pies, tarts, and sauce. About 4 by 4 feet is the proper distance.

**Grapes.**—Every owner of a house, whether there be ground attached or not, can grow grapes, and train them up to the house. Every farmer should have his fruit garden stocked with a liberal supply of the leading varieties for his family. Most grapes will do well on a moderately fertile soil. The Delaware does best on a pretty rich one, while the Diana only succeeds on a hard, poor soil. Buy none but strong plants; transplant them with care, and then give them clean culture through the season. The Hartford Prolific, Creveling, Adirondack, Delaware, Concord, Diana, and Isabella, are about the only varieties that we can confidently recommend, and some of these fail in many localities. The Israella and Iona are quite promising, but we must wait a little.

**Pears.**—A few dwarfs may be admitted into the fruit garden, although they properly belong to the orchard. Rostlezer, Tyson, Duchess d' Angouleme, Flemish Beauty, Louise Bonne, Beurre d' Anjou, and Vicar of Winkfield, make a choice succession through the three seasons. Bartlett, Seckel, and Lawrence are three of the best pears, but do not succeed well budded directly on the quince, but if budded on a dwarf Vicar, (a strong growing variety) does well.

**Peaches.**—Require most too much room for the fruit garden, but if cut off low, and the branches trained to the ground so as to admit of winter covering, a few might be cultivated. Hale's Early, Crawford's Early, and Hill's Chill, are good varieties. If Van Buren's Golden Dwarf peach should prove as hardy and proof against cold as is claimed for it, it will be very suitable for the fruit garden.

**Plums.**—To have all varieties moderately represented, a few plums might be admitted, as they suffer less than formerly from the Curculio. Jefferson, Coe's Golden

Drop, Imperial Gage, Monroe Gage, and the Egg Plums are good varieties.

**Prunes.**—The German prune is well worthy of a place in a fruit garden.

**Quince.**—The Orange Quince should not be overlooked. They are most excellent canned, or preserved.

**Raspberries.**—In the fruit garden, three by four feet are proper distances. Doolittle's Black Cap, Miami do, and Purple Cane, are hardy, productive sorts. Brinckle's Orange, Franconia, Hudson River Antwerp, are rather fine flavored, but need winter covering.

**Strawberries.**—In garden culture, strawberries should be kept in hills. They may be planted 20 inches by 3 feet one way, and 1 foot the other. Varieties: Downer's Prolific, French's Seedling, Wilson, Triumph d' Gand, Green Prolific, Golden Queen, Jucunda, and as many of the newer varieties, as the individual gardener feels disposed to risk his money upon.

The earlier these various fruits can be transplanted, after the ground is in condition, the better will they be able to withstand the summer drouths.

## FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK.

(Continued from page 90.)

### SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The President called the meeting to order, and in a few introductory remarks, said that he desired to express his objections to confining the whole attention of the Society to the subject of Grapes. The Apple was an important crop. We should also inquire if we can continue to raise the peach as in former years.

Mr. Griffith thought a new interest had been awakened in grape culture, but that we should not neglect other fruits.

Mr. Thomas said that sufficient time had been spent on grapes, and that the subject had run dry, and proposed to adopt the suggestion of the President, and take up some other subject.

On motion of Dr. Sylvester, a committee was appointed to draw up a resolution of the Society, remonstrating against the repeal of the law passed by the Legislature fixing the standard of apple barrels. The Society was strongly in favor of the law fixing the size of barrels.

Dr. Sylvester, F. G. Yeomans, and Benjamin Fish, were appointed as such committee.

The fourth question was then taken up, "Should such species as the Robin, which is very destructive to fruits, be destroyed, and what measures can be taken to protect the crop against their ravages?"

Mr. Thomas remarked that he was a friend to the birds, especially the hawks, owls, and crows; but if we were to have good crops of fruit some birds must be destroyed. He thought that birds would not save fruit from the attack of insects. One man in three days destroyed a thousand nests of caterpillars, and estimated that three or four millions were thus destroyed, and that birds could never do it. It is better to employ a man, and destroy the fruit eating birds. He had a crop of blackberries entirely taken by the birds.

Mr. Kendig.—I employed a man to scare off the birds with a gun, and they all left. A few shots will frighten them away. When they return, repeat the process. His three children had eaten more grapes than all the robbers.

Mr. Keech was of the same opinion. They would not frequent a place where a gun was used.

Mr. Fish said he was a friend to the birds. Did not want them destroyed. Had suffered very little from their depredations. Had a large number of birds around his grounds. We must raise something for them. He had mulberry trees, of which they were very fond.

Mr. Thomas thought people should do as they liked on their own grounds about protecting or destroying them.

After some further discussion, Mr. Smith moved that the question be referred to the Committee on Apple Barrels. Carried.

Question five next came up: "Can Pear cultivators account for the success of Pear culture in some localities and its failure in others?"

Mr. Barry thought this a difficult question to discuss. He could throw little light on the matter. One great cause of failure was that cultivators failed to remove dead trees, and those affected with blight from the orchard.

Mr. Bronson thought high manuring was one cause of failure.

Mr. Thomas was of the same opinion. Choose a good soil, manure but little, and keep the cultivator going all summer. In the vicinity of Boston pears will grow under any circumstances. The fire blight had not been seen there.

Mr. Redman, of Newfane, moved to take up the sixth question in connection with the tenth: "6. Can Blackberries and Raspberries be profitably grown in Monroe County, New York, for drying for market? 10. Which variety of Blackberry is the best for cultivation in Western New York?"

Mr. Redman said that with them the Lawton winter-killed, and he wanted to know what better varieties there were. His soil was a gravelly loam.

Mr. Thomas spoke of the Kittatinny as a new variety that has a high reputation. He had strong hopes of it.

Mr. Richmond, of Churchville, gave the experience of a friend at St. Joseph, Mich., who was successful with the Lawton. It did not winter-kill. His mode of culture was to cut back while the shoots were tender and growing.

Mr. Redman said cutting back did not prevent winter kill with them.

Dr. Sylvester had cultivated the Lawton over ten years, but never failed to have a crop. Have no fruit that excels it as a canned fruit. Head them back when they get to five feet. His orchard did not winter-kill.

Mr. Pillow thought it was attributable to high winds. Had put up a trellis to protect his. From a quarter of an acre he had sold \$235 worth of fruit.

Mr. Bronson said the Dorchester was productive and good for market.

Mr. Fish was satisfied that if it is cut back to two or two and a half feet, there would be no trouble about

winter-killing. He thought the Black Cap the most profitable to dry.

The President said the New Rochelle bears better than the Dorchester.

The following resolutions were offered:

*Resolved*, That the President appoint a committee of two to inquire into the necessity of further legislative action to protect fruit, including watermelons, from depredations, and if in their judgment a more stringent law is needed, that they be requested to prepare a suitable law and procure its passage by the Legislature of this State.

Committee appointed—W. Hodges, J. A. Eastman.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to M. B. Bateman, Dr. Warder, George Powers, and A. D. Strong, of Ohio, for collections of fruit.

*Resolved*, That the present law regulating the size of fruit barrels is reasonable and just, and ought not to be repealed—that the legal barrel will hold as many pounds of wheat as the flour barrel does flour; that fruit keeps better and is handled easier than in larger sized barrels, and ought to be satisfactory to all concerned; that our Senators and Representatives in the Legislature be requested to oppose any repeal of the present law which establishes one hundred quarts as a legal barrel.

Mr. Barry delivered a short but practical address, and urged upon farmers generally the importance of cultivating fine gardens and fruits as a means of adding to the value of their farms and cultivating the tastes and morals of the family, thereby keeping the children upon the farms. He also recommended ornamental gardening, and thought the Society should give attention to this subject, as well as to fruit growing alone. And he proposed that the name of the Society be changed so as to embrace horticulture.

An essay on grape growing and wine making from Mr. Griffith, was read by the Secretary. This essay went to show that history taught us that the general manufacture and use of pure wines in this country would tend to the prosperity, happiness, temperance, and morality of the people. That this country was admirably adapted to grape growing and wine making. It gave the history of the introduction of grape culture, and its progress to its present successful condition, leaving little room to doubt that this country will soon lead all others in grape and wine raising. There was no cause for fearing that grape culture could ever be overdone here; that the aggregate cultivation in this country did not exceed 25,000 acres, and it could hardly be said to be yet introduced.

The essay was highly interesting and instructive, and was listened to with marked attention by all present.

Mr. Fish asked if there would be an opportunity to present the other side of the same question next year.

Mr. Thomas said as there was great difference of opinion on this subject he hoped it would not be discussed here.

Mr. Fish insisted that Mr. Griffith be requested to strike out the part relating to the use of wine, if it was to be published.

Mr. Griffith said the question must stand upon its merits. Having written upon the subject he stood upon his record, and should not strike out anything he had written.

Mr. Elliott moved that a vote of thanks be presented to Mr. Griffith, and that a copy of the essay be requested for publication.

Mr. Fish objected to its going out as the sentiment of this Society.

Mr. Barry wished to have it go, as he was in favor of free discussion.

The resolution passed nearly unanimously.

Mr. Brooks read an essay on "Fruit—Healthy and Unhealthy Conditions." It was a well written and suggestive paper, and was requested for publication.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. La Rue desired to call the attention of the Society to the overbearing of grape vines. In reply to a question from the President, he stated that in some cases by overbearing, the vines were so badly injured that they could not stand the winter. A vine should never bear over four pounds the first year. He thought it was of the greatest importance that they should not yield too much fruit, and that the vines be cut back.

Mr. Brehm said in 1864 he had two rows of fine Delawares. Generally cut off half the fruit, but being absent from home that summer, he neglected them, and they were nearly ruined.

Mr. Bushnell thought overcropping a general fault.

Mr. Drake found that overcropped vines were more liable to mildew.

Mr. Griffiths said his conviction was that all vines were overcropped. We must renew the wood often and near the ground.

Mr. Barry said he had seen a great many vineyards the past season, and thought they were overcropped. Elsewhere it was the same. Pruning and thinning the bunches must be resorted to. The desire to produce a great many tons of fruit to the acre must be overcome.

Ninth question, "Should the practice of propagating grapes from green wood cuttings be recommended?"

After discussion it seemed to be the prevailing opinion that there was little difference, but that purchasers should insist upon having a good, well ripened plant. The whole error lay in abusing the practice of propagating a large number of plants to supply an immediate demand.

"Can the peach be cultivated with profit in Western New York?"—was now taken up.

Mr. Hayward thought they could near the lake, but not generally in this locality.

Mr. Langworthy named the following varieties:—Hill's Chili, Honest John, Early Crawford, Early Purple, Early Barnard, Coolidge's Favorite, and Hale's Early, as the best.

Mr. Hayward thought the Early Crawford the best and earliest.

Mr. Hoag said Hale's Early proved to be the hardest peach; it ripened ten days before Early Purple.

Mr. Quinby thought the influence of Lake Ontario very beneficial. He thought the buds for this year were all killed when the thermometer went down, as marked at Charlotte, at the mouth of the Genesee River, to 22° below zero.

Mr. Thomas said that in his section they believed the buds were killed, and had concluded to cut back the trees so as to produce new wood.

Mr. Barry was of the opinion that peaches could only be grown near the Lake Shore.

During the afternoon session the vote by ballot was taken on the best twelve varieties of grapes. Thirty-eight votes were cast with the following results:

Diana, 38; Delaware, 37; Concord, 33; Iona, 31; Creveling, 30; Adirondac, 26; Israella, 26; Rogers' No. 4, 22; Isabella, 23; Rebecca, 26; Hartford Prolific, 27; Catawba, 13; Rogers' No. 19, 15; Union Village, 7; Clinton, 7; Allen's Hybrid, 6; Ives' Seedling 2; To-Kalon, Rogers 44, Rogers 39, Perkins, Maxatawney, Norton's Seedling, Coriella, and Cuyahoga, one each. After the balloting the Society adjourned *sine die*.

#### ORNAMENTAL TREES.

NOTHING gives a greater air of comfort to a cottage or a mansion, than a goodly number of trees artistically scattered or grouped over the dooryard. Trees around a dwelling are useful, as well as beautiful; they break the force of heavy winds, thus, to a considerable extent, adding to the comfort of its inmates. With nurseries, all over the country, stocked with many varieties of beautiful, ornamental trees to be had at moderate rates, it is really surprising that so many residences, both in town and country, still wear a bleak and desolate aspect. We subjoin a list, and brief description of the more desirable deciduous, and evergreen ornamental trees, omitting for want of space, their botanical names.

#### DECIDUOUS TREES.

*White American Ash*.—This tree, so common in our forests, forms a symmetrical top, when planted on the lawn.

*European Mountain Ash*.—This tree has beautiful foliage, and its clusters of red berries are ornamental, after its foliage has fallen. It is superior to the American variety.

*Cut-leaved Birch*.—The most attractive of the birch family.

*Cut-leaved Beech*.—Has a beautiful, feathery foliage.

*Purple Beech*.—Remarkable for its dark, purple foliage, and stately appearance.

*Butternut*.—Not to be rejected because common.

*White-flowering Horse Chestnut*.—Should be in the smallest collection. Its symmetrical form, beautiful foliage, and large spikes of fragrant white flowers, render it very attractive.

*Red-flowering Horse Chestnut*.—Bears red berries.

*Spanish Chestnut*.—A splendid tree, bearing a large nut.

*Catalpa*.—Where this tree will withstand the winter, it is a rapid grower, large leaved, and bears in July, large clusters of white flowers.

*Large Double-flowering Cherry*.—A handsome tree, bearing a great abundance of white flowers.

*American Cypress*.—A native of the Southern States, but hardy at the North. Its beautiful, feathery foliage, renders it a decided acquisition.

*White flowering Dogwood*.—A common forest tree, mainly desirable for its large, white flowers.

*American Elm*.—This country does not afford a more picturesque tree than the elm.

*Purple Fringe*.—A small tree, notable for its masses of feathery purple flowers, which remain a long time.

*Red Hawthorn*.—A beautiful, red flowering tree.

*American Judas Tree*.—Is covered with a profusion of lilac-colored blossoms, before the leaves appear.

*Chinese Solreuteria*.—Produces gorgeous bunches of

yellow flowers in August, when flowers on trees are rare.

*Laburnum*, or *Golden Chain*.—A valuable June bloomer, producing long, pendent bunches of yellow flowers.

*Honey Locust*.—A common tree, with attractive foliage, fragrant blossoms, and ornamental seed pods.

*European Larch*.—A deciduous conifer, of rapid growth, pendulous branches, and fine foliage. In winter its golden bark is attractive.

*American Linden* or *Basswood*.—A rapid growing, large leaved, splendid tree.

*Red-Twigged Linden*.—Is notable for its red bark.

*Sugar Maple*.—Of slow growth, but forms a fine, oval head—splendid for avenue or lawn.

*Norway Maple*.—One of the most desirable trees for the lawn—its round, compact head, forming an almost impenetrable shade.

*Silver-Leaved Maple*.—Very rapid in growth, desirable where that is a leading object.

*Scarlet Maple*.—Puts forth its scarlet blossoms very early in spring.

*Magnolia Acuminata*, (*Cucumber Tree*).—A grand tree, with leaves from six inches to one foot in length, with large bluish white flowers in June. Hardy in this latitude.

*Fragrant Magnolia*, (*Glansea*).—A small tree, bearing large white flowers in June—very fragrant.

*Magnolia Conspicua*, (*Chinese White*).—The most beautiful of the flowering magnolias, blooming early in April.

*Magnolia Splendida*.—The finest American variety; its leaves sometimes attaining a length of three feet, and its white flowers are very large.

White Oak, Burr Oak, Chestnut Oak, and Scarlet Oak, are the most desirable of their noble family, and would do honor to any lawn.

*Sassafras*.—An elegant tree that should not be overlooked.

*Yellow Flowering Virgilia*.—A valuable American tree, but little known. Its flowers hang in long, pendent clusters.

*Tulip Tree*, or *Whitewood*.—This grand forest tree is no discredit to the lawn.

*Golden Willow*.—Only needs to be mentioned as a reminder to the reader.

*Black Walnut*.—Scarcely inferior to any in beauty or utility.

#### WEeping TREES.

Several of our trees have varieties that are weeping, which give variety and picturesqueness to the lawn. The weeping form of the Birch, Beech, Ash, Linden, Willow and Elm are the most desirable.

#### EVERGREEN TREES.

A lawn, with the best assortment of deciduous trees, would look rather cheerless in winter, without the presence of a few evergreens. We give a list of the more desirable without stopping to describe them.

White, Hemlock, and Norway Spruce, Deodar Cedar, Cedar of Lebanon, Lawson's Cypress, American Holly, Chinese, Irish, and Swedish Juniper, the Savin Balsam Fir, European Silver Fir, Black Austrian Pine, White or Weymouth Pine, Scotch Fir, Erect Yew,

Golden Arbor Vitæ, American Arbor Vitæ, Siberian Arbor Vitæ. If we were to make a selection from the foregoing list of a smaller collection we would name: European Mountain Ash, Cut-leaved Birch, Purple Beech, White-fl. Horse Chestnut, Spanish Chestnut, Large Double fl. Cherry, American Elm, Purple Fringe, Chinese Kolreuteria, Laburnum, European Larch, American Linden, Norway Maple, Scarlet Maple, the Magnolias, White Oak, Tulip Tree, Black Walnut.

Hemlock Spruce, Norway Spruce, Lawson's Cypress, Irish Juniper, Swedish Juniper, Black Austrian Pine, Scotch Fir, American Arbor Vitæ, Siberian Arbor Vitæ.

### PRUNING THE GRAPE VINE.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY WM. H. ADAMS, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

MESSERS. EDS.:—With your permission, I purpose to lay before the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER, a few simple hints and suggestions on the subject of Pruning the Grape Vine, during the first three years of its growth.

The first year after planting the vine, it will be necessary to procure a good stake, say five or six feet long. Drive it into the ground four or five inches from, and on the west side of the vine. Allow one good cane to grow, and tie to the stake, breaking or rubbing off all others. On this cane, a lateral will grow out at the base of each leaf, about the last of June. Such should be cut out, leaving one bud and a leaf, as in Fig. 1, letter a, dotted line. This is done



Fig. 1.

for the purpose of protecting the fruit bud at the base of the leaf and lateral. The bud on the spur of the lateral will swell and push out a sub-lateral, (b, Fig. 1.) Now, if this lateral should be cut or pinched out at the base of the leaf, below the bud on the lateral (c, Fig. 1,) the main bud at the base of the leaf will swell and push out a cane, which ought not to be allowed to grow until the next spring, otherwise the vine will become weak and soon die away from the effects of making two growths in one season. This is all the care necessary at this period, except to tie the vine to the stake, and to keep the ground well stirred and clean.

As soon as the frost has destroyed the leaves, the vine should be cut off, leaving only two good buds, as low as possible, as in Fig. 2, which should be protected by lightly covering with a quantity of coarse litter. The next spring the vines will push out from one to two shoots from each bud, as in Fig. 3. When the shoots are about six inches long, the best and strongest ones at each joint



Fig. 2.

should be tied to the stake—the others rubbed off, as in Fig. 4. Keep them tied to the stake, and cut out the laterals as described for the first year. Stir the ground well, and keep weeds down. If the vines make too strong a growth in the latter part of the summer, they should be cut back to five or six feet in height, as at dotted line in Fig. 4.



Fig. 3.

In the fall, as soon as the frost has destroyed the leaves, they should be cut back again—the upper cane to four buds and eyes, and the lower cane to three buds or eyes. At the same time there will be some lateral spurs, as in Fig. 4, letter *a a*. These should all be cut off at the junction of the main cane and spur, being very careful not to injure or rub the cap off the buds at this point. See Fig 5.

The following spring the trellis should be put up. The best trellis is constructed of posts, 9 1-2 feet long, and not less than 4 inches in diameter. The slats should be 1 by 2 1-2 inches, 14 feet long, and of hemlock or pine. They require to be nailed 14 inches apart on the posts. The posts should be set 7 feet apart, 3 feet in the ground, and 6 inches on the west side of the row, running north and south. Next measure 14 inches from the ground, nail a slat to the post, and then again 14 inches above this another slat, and so on until you have placed 5 slats, as in Fig. 6. Some persons prefer wire. Where this material is used, the posts may be set further apart, say 25 to 30 feet, and place some smaller stakes between the large posts. Wire trellis is somewhat cheaper in the outset, but in the end not so economical, as the post and slat arrangement.

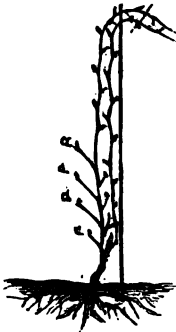


Fig. 4.

When the buds start, there will be sometimes two buds push from each joint. When these are about 6 to 8 inches long, examine the vines, select the three best, which have the largest cluster. Tie them to the slat or wire, and rub off the weak ones, as in Fig. 6. Whenever there are three clusters on one cane, one of them should be picked off, and the remainder will be larger and finer. Keep the laterals cut as last year; the summer pruning being as necessary as the winter operation.



Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a section of green wood with buds maturing for next year's crop of wood and fruit. The lower bud *a*, split down lengthwise, and a part removed, showing the cap, and the three buds, letter *b*, first crown bud *c*, second crown bud *e*, being the third crown or fruitless bud. The bud or cap at the base of the leaf on the growing wood, contains three distinct buds, as in Fig. 7,

letter *a*. The one in the center is the first crown or fruit bud for next year; and if that lateral should be cut out as in Fig. 1, letter *c*, this first crown bud will push out, and show young fruit in the months of August and September; therefore the next year's crop depends entirely on the second crown bud, which shows an inferior and small cluster and berry, and is frequently liable to remain unripe. As a general thing when the first crown bud makes its growth this year, it crowds the second crown bud out of place, and it dies. Dependence is then placed on the third crown or fruitless bud, as seen in Fig. 7.

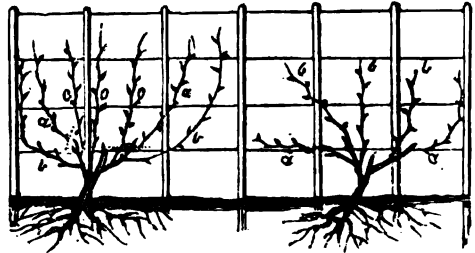


Fig. 6.

Fig. 8.

Hoe and keep the ground clear of weeds. When the leaves have fallen in November, it will be necessary to prune again. The two canes, *a a*, must be cut out, as at dotted line in Fig. 6. The remaining five, if good, strong and healthy canes, should be cut back to six and eight buds; the canes, *b b*, in Fig. 6, cut to eight eyes or buds, as in Fig. 8, *a a*. The other three canes, *c c c*, Fig. 6, are comparatively upright, and should not be left so long, and will require to be cut back to six eyes or buds, as in Fig. 8, *b b b*.

The advantage of early fall pruning will be understood when we explain the facts. When the leaves fall from the vine in the fall, the stems and branches are full of sap. There is a large amount of this sap which permeates the wood through the winter, and all the superfluous and unnecessary wood is all this time drawing the sap or life blood from the body of the vine—the young wood also evaporating more sap than the older wood, because the young wood has only one coat, while the older has two of bark. In cutting this surplus wood in the fall season, the vine retains its sap, and by means of the restricted wood surface consequent upon the pruning, the vine keeps its wood fresher and more vigorous, and the buds fuller, possessing more vigor, and in better condition to make a good growth in the spring, as soon as the roots begin to feed or take in new supplies from the soil. As the season progresses, the vine makes a stronger and healthier growth of wood, and is not so liable to be in-

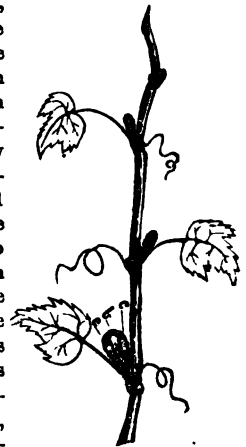


Fig. 7.

jured by late frosts, and cold and backward spring weather, or from other climatic causes. When the sap begins to flow in the spring, the vine will not bleed from these wounds—they become dry and hard.

On the contrary, if left till spring before pruning, the wood and buds of the vine lose their vitality in a measure, shrivel and become hard; as a consequence, the sap cannot circulate freely through the veins or pores of the wood, and as a matter of course it takes many days longer for the vines to fill themselves with sap, having to permeate the large amount of surplus wood. The wounds being fresh and the pores all open, the vine bleeds as fast as the sap can circulate, there being nothing to keep the sap in the cane; therefore the vine becomes weak, and can not force or push its buds, and withers and dies. Never prune vines or trees after the month of February.

We purpose to continue our investigations on this subject in future numbers of *THE FARMER*, and would call the attention of vineyardists and amateur cultivators to the points here discussed, believing them to be of fundamental importance in successfully cultivating the vine with a view to permanent profit, and the healthful and fruitful durability of the plant.

## Editor's Table.

### Premiums!

We continue to send off valuable gifts to our Agents who work to increase the circulation of *THE AMERICAN FARMER*, and hope our friends will persevere in their efforts to extend the circulation of the paper. There is yet time to get up clubs for 1887. We can at all times supply the back numbers. Now that the severe winter season has left us, our friends can travel without difficulty, and easily solicit a large club. Among the last clubs received, was one of eighty subscribers, taking two copies of Webster's New Illustrated Unabridged Dictionary. Our agent writes he got it up in two weeks with very little trouble. In acknowledging receipt, he says:—"I have just received two copies of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. They are an invaluable work, and I am amply rewarded for my trouble in getting up the club." Another acknowledging receipt of a Lamb Family Knitting Machine, says:—"I received the machine all in good order. It looks as if it will do work well. As soon as I can operate it, you will hear from me." We continue on another page, our List of Premiums, and hope many of our readers will avail themselves of these prizes and form clubs. Take a copy of the paper with you, and show it to your friends, and you will find little or no trouble in obtaining a valuable present for little labor. A word to the wise is sufficient.

THE next annual Fair of the Vt. State Agricultural Society, is to be held at Brattleboro, September 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th.

### Notes on the Weather, from February 14th to March 16th, 1867.

FEBRUARY has been warmer than usual. The first half gave its temperature 31.4°, or 7° above the general average, and the second half gave 28.3°, exceeding the average one degree. These give the mean heat of the month at 29.8°, or above the general average, 4 degrees. The range of the means of February for 31 years, are between 15.2° and 33.6°, and warmer than the present three times in 31 years.

The water of the last half was 0.88 inches, and of the month 3.01 inches. Much good sleighing in the month, and good health prevailed. The storms of snow great and heavy, and widely spread over the country. Floods in New England and the West on its latitude.

MARCH commenced warm. The noon of the 1st was 53°, and of the day, 44.3, or 4° warmer than any other day of the first half. The coldest was 10°, on the 15th, and the coldest day, 14.7° on the 14th. The mean heat of this half was 28.3°, or 2 degrees below the general average. Rain or snow on eight of the fifteen days. Not much sleighing. Ground thawed and then froze twice at least. Wheat in part protected by the falling snow. The cold has been at cypher or below it only five days in 31 years, and only one of these was after the 15th of the month. Great rains at the South and West have produced destructive floods; bridges carried away, and much property swept away. This half has been rather cold, not having any very cold days, but being cool weather generally. General health prospect good for spring weather. Water in this half 0.03 inch.!

Robins appeared on the 1st of March; but the birds have been rarely seen for several days. Crows have caused over us or at us these two months occasionally.

### Notes from Maine.

We have experienced a very peculiar winter. January was cold with blocking snows, but February was almost entirely without snow storms, the fields bare, and traveling partly on wheels, and partly on runners.

The first week of March was the same, but on the 7th a snow fall of six inches or more, made good sleighing, and the prospect is that the month will continue so. Hay is very high, upward of \$20 per ton; potatoes 50 to 60 cents a bushel; barley, \$1.20; oats, 75; butter, 30 cents per pound; eggs, 25 cents a dozen; beef, \$9 to \$12 per hundred. Stock is at fair rates, though not much in advance of last fall's prices.

The agricultural college is in a fair way for a commencement. The legislature appropriated twenty thousand dollars which will be expended in the erection of suitable buildings on the farm at Orono, and it is hoped it will get fairly started during early summer.

The people of the State are becoming much interested in railroad matters, and many are being projected, which if built, will do much towards opening up and developing the agricultural and other resources of the State.—B.

NEW YORK Sheep Breeders' and Wool Growers' Fair Auburn, May 8, 9, 10.

**PROTECTING FOREST TREES.**—Memorials have been presented to the Legislature of Michigan for the adoption of some measures to prevent the destruction of forest trees in that State. The committee to whom the memorials were referred, have made an able report upon the subject, and recommend the passage of laws designed to accomplish the desired object.

**SEEDS RECEIVED.**—We are indebted to J. J. H. Gregory, Marblehead, Mass., for a valuable and choice package of seeds. Mr. G. is well known as a reliable seedsman, and as the originator of many new and valuable varieties.

We have received just as we go to press, the programme for the second national trial of plows and other implements, to be held near Utica, N. Y., May 7, 1867, under the auspices of the New York State Agricultural Society. This trial will be open to all manufacturers of plows in the States, Canada, and Europe, to compete for the prizes offered. Full particulars can be obtained and circulars furnished by addressing B. P. Johnson, Albany, N. Y.

How many wives fall to meet the requirements of their husbands for the simple reason that they are overworked, and can not be neat and cheerful, who if they possessed a Lamb Family Knitting Machine, instead of drudging from breakfast to bed-time, would have ample time to entertain their husbands or friends, or to read some improving and interesting work. \*

### THE MARKETS.

Rochester, March 25, 1868.

**FLOUR**—White wheat, \$16.00@16.50. Red, \$14.00@15.00.  
**GRAIN**—White wheat, 800@812c. Red, 280@285c. Corn, 100c.  
 Barley, \$1.10. Oats, 55@62c. Rye, 120c.  
**HOPS**—Prime, 70c.  
**WOOL**—40@50c.  
**HAY**—\$16@20.  
**SHEEP SKINS**—Prime, \$1.00@2.63.  
**PROVISIONS**—Dressed hogs, 5½@9c. Hams, 12½. Lard, 18. Butter, 20@23c. Eggs, 23c. Cheese, 18@21c. Potatoes, 50@62½c.

### New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

New York, March 23.

**BEEF CATTLE**—Fat cattle sell at remunerating prices; and there is an active demand for thrifty, smooth, well fattened cattle. Beeves of this quality will sell readily at about 16c@17c per lb., net weight for the four quarters of meat, no account being made of the rough tallow and hides. Extra fattened beeves have sold steadily, for two weeks past, at 17c@17½c per lb., net weight. Very few extras, however, have been offered at any of the yards. Medium to good cattle have been sold for about 15c@16c per lb., net weight. The poorest ranged as low as 11c@12c@13c per lb. A large proportion of most of the droves, for several weeks past, consisted of rough, and old oxen, not sufficiently fleshy to be in fair working condition; thin and rough steers, many of which were spring-poor; and old, half-fattened cows. After the good cattle are all sold, trade drags heavily at low figures. The number of beef cattle received at all the yards, for the weekly supply, during the week past, is 5,018.

**MILCH COWS**—For the most part, the cows offered for sale the past week, were so old that the annual wrinkles on their horns had all disappeared or run into one; and most of them bore no marks of even common milkers. Such animals sell slowly, as men will not purchase them at all if they can find anything better. But when necessity compels them to accept these old, overmatured animals, they take them at low figures.

There appeared to be a little more activity than usual in the cow market during the past week. Some of the cow brokers stated that there is an improvement in prices of about \$5 per head. The number of really choice milkers is exceedingly few. Yet, there were some beautiful, fine-looking cows at some of the markets.

A few cows were reported the past week as sold at \$180 per head. A small number brought \$100 each, and others were sold for \$40 @50 per head, and some for \$80@90 each. Good milkers are in fair request, as many people are now purposing to purchase a good cow for supplying milk and cream for their own families.

The number of milk cows received at all the yards is only 73 for the weekly supply.

**VEAL CALVES**—Common calves were sold for about 10c@11c per lb., live weight, during the past week. There are large numbers of miserably poor calves sold in market, that are not worth more than 7c@8c per lb. A desperate effort is made to maintain the high prices for this kind of meat. Calves that are "hog-dressed," by removing the entrails and cutting off the head before their carcasses are brought to market, sell a few cents per lb., higher than those that are weighed and sold alive. "Hog-dressed" calves have sold during the past week for about 15@16c per lb. Very few, however, brought 16c.

Hundreds of miserable young calves were sent to the New York markets last week, and about six hundred of their carcasses, from two to five days old, were seized by the Sanitary Police of the city and confiscated. These officers visited West Washington Market twice on Saturday, the 9th, and collected three large loads of this kind of immature meat, and ordered the horrid stuff to be thrown into the compost heap.

It is exceedingly difficult for a reporter to ascertain at what prices such meat is sold, as the men who will deal in this unhealthful food do not scruple to affirm that they sold such meat for 10c., or more per lb., when in reality they did not obtain half that sum. As the Sanitary Police made such a sweeping raid among the unscrupulous dealers in "bob veal," the supply will probably be rather limited for a week or two to come. The meat of such animals is sold at low figures, and purchased by poor people who are not aware of the imposition of which they are the victims.

The number of calves received at all the markets, for the weekly supply, is 930.

**SHEEP**—The price for good sheep is so firm that dealers are calculating on more or less advance from the present figures. There are not fat sheep enough offered to supply the requirements of the trade. Butchers dislike to purchase poor, half-starved sheep. They prefer to pay two or three cents per lb., live weight, more for sheep that will make superior mutton, than to take up with ordinary sheep at low figures.

Fat sheep sell readily at 9c@10c., per lb., live weight. A very few of the extra-fattened sheep were sold for 10½c per lb., live weight. Perhaps about one-third of the droves were sold as high as 8c@9c per lb., live weight. There are so many inferior sheep that after the best lots have been disposed of, business is exceedingly dull, and drovers find it difficult to dispose of the remnants of their flocks from which the best ones have been selected and removed.

It is safe to write the sheep market as active with an upward tendency in prices. Most of the best droves are bargained for, and in some instances the money is actually paid before the sheep arrive at the yards. The number of sheep received, for the weekly supply, at all the New York markets for the past week, is 11,559.

**SWINE**—The number of swine received at all the hog yards on 40th street, and at Communipaw, for the week is 14,233. During the few past weeks the swine market has been rather unsteady. On Saturday the 16th trade closed with firm prices at 8½c@8¾c per lb. The yards were well cleared of the offerings. On Monday the 18th, the market opened active at 8½c@8¾c per lb., live weight, for the best Western corn-fed hogs. The same quality, dressed, brought 10½c@10¾c per lb. Fair to good swine were sold for 8½c@8¾c per lb., live weight, or 10½c@10¾c dressed. Common and rough hogs, live weight, brought 7½c@8c per lb.; dressed, the same quality were sold for 9½c@10c per lb. Distillery-fed porkers were sold 7½c@8¾c per lb., live weight, or 9½c@10c per lb., dressed. Market pigs sold readily at 8c@8½c per lb., live weight; dressed, same quality were worth 10½c@10¾c per lb. Dealers do not apprehend any decline at present from these figures.

**BUTTER**—The butter market is thoroughly glutted—not with good butter however—but with miserable "grease." Yesterday, as I passed some of the large wholesale butter establishments, I could smell the strong butter as I passed along the street. I saw a cargo of Pennsylvania butter tested—which was not very bad butter—and for which dealers would offer only 13c per lb., at wholesale.

Since the decline in the market for butter fully noted in late reports, both local and shipping trade have assumed tone and activity, and during the week just closed transactions have been more in consonance with the ordinary trade of former seasons. Eastern demand has also visibly improved, and considerable stock has been taken for those markets. The Western commercial cities have also been drawing on New York for their supplies of fine stock. Packers for the West India and South American markets are competing for their share of low-priced stock, while local demand has been greatly stimulated, as all classes of



buyers were drained of stock, having been waiting for the market to touch bottom before purchasing more than for daily wants. New Crop Butter is quoted and noticed freely by parties engaged in buying the market. Sussex, Orange and Chemung County Dairies, half-firkin tubs, good to extra, @ \$3.50; New York State Dairies—firkins, good to extra, @ \$3.50; New York State Dairies—firkins, fair to good, @ \$3.30; New York State Dairies—half-firkin tubs, good to extra, @ \$3.30; New York State Dairies—half-firkin tubs, fair to good, @ \$3.20; Western Reserve—firkins, fair to good, @ \$3.20; Western Reserve—firkins, ordinary, @ \$3.10; Western State—firkins, ordinary, @ \$3.10; Western State—firkins, common, @ \$2.90.

**GRAIN**—The market for wheat is more active, and several cents advance has been paid within the last week—choice Spring is scarce, the stock consisting chiefly of the lower grades. California white sells more freely to the millers at about \$2.20@2.25—the latter price for a choice lot. Rye has improved in value, and is held with firmness. Barley, for home use and export, is in good request. For Oats (with a reduced stock) higher prices are asked. Indian corn is again active and sells freely (largely on speculation) at our quotations.

The following quotations will give the reader a fair idea of the trade prices for grain, viz: White Wheat, @ bu., \$2.90@3.20; Red and Amish, Wheat, @ bu., \$2.00@2.15; Mixed Western corn, \$1.15@1.20; Yellow Corn, \$1.10@1.15; White Corn, \$1.15@1.20; Rye, \$1.25@1.42; Barley, @ \$1.20; Oats, 64c@71c.

**CHEESE**—There have been no material changes to note in the market for Cheese. The export trade is limited to the lower grades, the finer qualities being taken for local and Southern trade, at prices above the views of exporters. We quote:

Factory Dairies, 1st quality, State, @ lb.	19c@20c
Factory Dairies, 2d quality, State, @ lb.	18c@19c
Factory Dairies, Western, @ lb.	17c@18c
Farm Dairies, 1st quality, State, @ lb.	18c@19c
Farm Dairies, 2d quality, State, @ lb.	16c@18c
Farm Dairies, Western, @ lb.	16c@18c
Skimmed Cheese, Western and State, @ lb.	16c@18c
Farm Dairies—common, @ lb.	18c@16c

**FLOUR**—During a few days past the market for flour has gradually assumed a firmer tone, and prices on all grades, particularly choice family, are considerably higher. This is caused in a measure by a material decrease in the stock here and the light supply, and great firmness at nearly all the Western ports, giving but little promise of free receipts from that quarter before another harvest. As the trade here learn to appreciate the quality of California flour, and become accustomed to its use, there is an increased demand, and higher prices are obtained.

Superfine flour, per bbl., \$9.40@10.00; Extra State, \$10.75@11.75; Extra Ind. and Mich., \$10.75@11; Extra Ohio, \$11.25@12; Extra Genesee, \$12.75@15; Extra Missouri, \$13.25@15.25; Sup. to Extra Southern, \$10.50@11.75; Rye Flour, \$7.40@8.50; Corn meal, \$5.00@5.75.

**APPLES**—The demand for apples is active, and good lots sell readily at the following prices, namely: Apples selected, @ bbl., \$6@7; Western, do. \$3.50@4.50; prime winter, \$5.00@6.

**CRANBERRIES**—Eastern, per bbl., \$24@26; Jersey, \$22@25.

**Poultry**—Poultry, of all kinds, if fat, sells readily at the following prices, viz:

Turkeys, per lb.	26c@27c
Chickens, do.	20c@26c
Geese, do.	16c@22c
Ducks, do.	25c@25c

**EGGS**—The demand is good, and although receipts are large, there is no overstock. During the week prices have fluctuated, but at the close are more steady:

Jersey, extra brands, per dozen	26c@
State and Penn., do.	25c@26c
Ordinary Western, do.	24c@24c
Western by Express, do.	24c@25c
Canada, do.	23c@25c

**BEANS**—Are in moderate request at the following figures: Prime Beans, Kidneys, per bushel, \$3.25@3.50; Prime Beans, Marrows, new per bushel, 3.00@3.25; Prime Beans, Mediums, new per bushel, 2.40@2.60; Prime Beans, Mixed Parcels, per bushel, 2.25@2.50; Peas, Canada, per bushel, 1.40@1.50.

**POTATOES**—There is a fair degree of activity in the potato market, and prices are firm at the following rates:

Peachblows, @ bbl.	\$2.25@2.80
Mercers, @ bbl.	3.00@3.25
Jackson Whites, @ bbl.	2.25@2.50
Bockeyes, @ bbl.	1.75@2.00
Irishman, @ bbl.	4.00@4.50
Cillian Rods, new, @ bbl.	2.25@2.50
Sweet Potatoes, @ bbl.	5.50@6.50

**VEGETABLES**—Onions, turnips, and cabbages are held firmly at the following figures: Onions, Red, per bbl., \$2.50@3 white, \$4@5; Turnips—Russia, per bbl., 75c@87c; Cabbages, new,

per 100, \$5@6; Marrow Squash, per bbl., \$2.50@3; pumpkins, per 100, \$15@20.

**WOOL**—There has been little or no variation in the price of wool, since my last report, although prices have fluctuated more or less every week. The report on wool, therefore, may be consulted as reliable for the present month, in THE AMERICAN FARMER for the month of March.

### Special Notices.

KITTATINNY AND WILSON BLACKBERRY,  
DOOLITTLE AND PHILADELPHIA RASPBERRY,  
AGRICULTURIST, DOWNE'S, and other Strawberries.  
The Best Plants at Low Prices, quality considered. Spring Catalogue, 6 cts. Address, E. Williams, Montclair, N. J.

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In addition to an agreeable touch, I think their pleasing exterior leaves nothing to be desired. Wishing you all success, I remain yours most respectfully,

H. C. TIMM.

From Prof. Isley, Teacher of Music in the Public Schools, Newark, N. J.

NEWARK, September 29, 1866.

I have used your Choral Organs, both in my house and in some of the Public Schools in this city, where I teach music, and I am happy to say that they have given, and are giving, entire satisfaction. The tone is very full and fine, the action good, and the effects produced by the graduated swell are greater and finer than I have ever heard in any other reed instrument.

Yours truly, F. I. ISLEY.

NEW YORK, September 22, 1866.

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Yours, very respectfully, G. F. ISLEY.

Director of Music in Rev. Dr. Crosby's Church, Fourth Ave.

WE FULLY CONCUR IN THE ABOVE OPINION OF MR. G. F. ISLEY:

J. B. BARTLETT,

Director of Music in Rev. Mr. Ganss's Church, 28d Street.

S. F. POWERS,

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## THE AMERICAN FARMER.

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# THE AMERICAN FARMER

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1867, by JOHN TURNER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Northern District of New York.

VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MAY, 1867.

No 5.



From far off southern shores a perfumed breeze  
Blows up to northern climes, and wakes to life  
The slumbering fies and hidden dormant powers  
That winter firmly locked in nature's breast.  
Through tiny mouths the deep hid rootlets draw  
The sap that upward mounts and flows to feed  
The hungry leaves, and form the circling wood.  
The fields all laid in green, like ocean swells,  
Wave 'neath the toying wind, which in its arms  
Brings down the farmer's cheery words of toil  
From distant hillside, when the patient team  
Draws through the mellow soil the cleaving plow.  
'Tis nature's quickening hour when all who sow  
Have promise of a harvest many fold ;  
And all her fair surroundings fill the sense  
With pleasant hopes of coming autumn time,  
When leaves shall fall, and flowers to luscious fruits  
Shall change, and every tiny seed which faith  
Hath dropped, shall yield a bounteous return,  
And fill the season's horn with plenitude.

Belfast, Me.

G. E. E.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

It is of the greatest importance, especially at this season of the year, to apply the force used on the farm judiciously. It is difficult even under ordinary circumstances, to so arrange the labor of the farm as to be certain of each day's work beforehand, like the mechanic or manufacturer, who knows almost from week to week what work he has to do, and who can lay plans with some certainty ; but not so the agriculturist. His operations depend on the action of nature, or circumstances which he can not always control. If the weather is unfavorable, or the land wet, he must wait—though the skies may be free from clouds, he can neither plow nor sow. Therefore in order to derive profit from the use of labor, it is necessary to make a careful estimate of the labor and force employed. Let no operations or experiments be commenced that cannot be fully accomplished with the help we have, or which would suffer for the want of help which at the time required we may not be able to obtain.

A systematic course and proper division of labor should be adopted, allowing certain days to certain crops, while a part of each day is devoted to the care of the stock and operations of the barn, or work near the homestead. The farmer who carries out a regular system of labor and rotation, will do more towards bringing a farm to the highest degree of fertility, and contribute largely to his success and welfare, and add greatly to the value of the land he cultivates, than he who does not hold himself in readiness to set about sowing, planting, or harvesting, as soon as the proper time arrives, and which must be done as early and expeditiously as possible. This month we must

**PLANT CORN**—as early as the season will admit. In order to ensure a good crop, it is necessary in this latitude to take some risk of late frosts, and put it in early in order to get it ripe before the early frosts of the fall. The soil should be rich and well prepared, and some good fertilizer used to hasten it forward.

**PLANT potatoes.** See horticultural department. After corn and potatoes, attend to

**CORN FODDER.**—One or two acres may be profitably devoted to corn fodder. If grass should be short, it will come in well for feed to stock in the fall, or may be cured for winter feed. From two to four bushels may be sown broadcast to the acre on good land. A good harrowing after sowing will be all the care necessary to give.

**FIELD BEANS** may be sown the latter part of this month.

**MULCH**—all newly planted trees.

**CARROTS.**—See what a correspondent says on page 140, about the cultivation and profits of this crop. Let the war against

**WEEDS**—commence at once. Give them no foothold on the farm, cut them out, root and branch, big or little. Give them no rest, but keep the hoes and cultivators going to eradicate these pests and robbers of the soil. The road sides should also be kept clean, as here they will grow and thrive unmolested by the slovenly farmer, but he who appreciates a



neat and orderly farm will take care that none grow, even along the wayside.

**DOWN WITH THE WEEDS**—Should be the war cry for the summer campaign.

**SUMMER FALLOWS**—If properly done will do more towards eradicating obnoxious weeds than any other process for cleansing the farm. Let the land intended for fall wheat, be well prepared, and all foul stuff be thoroughly eradicated during the summer months.

**BEES**.—In May the flowers and fruit trees put forth their blossoms, and the bees commence their harvest in good earnest. Let their owner be equally assiduous to his faithful laborers. Look at your bees, and see that they are in good condition. If the bees cluster upon the outside of the hives, raise them three-eighths of an inch upon a block, and the bees will soon return to the hive and to their labor. Strong stock should be divided the last of this month. This treatment when performed by an experienced hand, is far better than natural swarming. Every bee keeper should understand it. Supply queenless colonies with queens, and keep watch for the moth worm, which continue to destroy.

### SLOVENLY FARMERS.

In a recent ride into the country, we were forcibly reminded that the race of slovenly farmers is not wholly extinct. In one field, half buried in the snow, we saw a plow; in another, a cultivator; in another, a harrow; and in still another, a *reaping machine*, apparently new last summer; all probably suffering greater injury from their winter's exposure, than from their summer's wear. Again, we noticed gates broken down, or hanging by a single hinge; boards off the sides of the barn, which were admitting the wind to tear off other boards, when a few minutes with hammer and nails, would have repaired them, and prevented further damage. Old wagons and sleds scattered about the barnyard, or in some cases, where the barn opened directly into the road, were intruding on the highway.

All these are indications of slovenly farmers who have either neglected to prepare sufficient storage for their implements, or have carelessly neglected to house them, and are thus allowing them to decay rapidly under the wear of the elements. We are aware that this class of farmers have been ridiculed, caricatured, and remonstrated with by the agricultural press for the last thirty years, and we believe with good effect, but still their number is altogether too great, and we would attempt a little more exhortation.

The first requisite to the careful storing of the implements of the farm, is to have a *convenient* tool house, convenient in *location* as well as construction.

Many a tool house is well arranged, but so located that the workmen cannot put their tools therein without going considerably out of their way, and that they are not inclined to do, and consequently leave them out in the weather. As most of the barn yard doors open directly, or indirectly into the fields, the tool house should be located on one side thereof, nearest the gate which communicates with the greatest number of fields. It should be much longer one way than the other, and have sliding doors at either end, and a passage wide enough for a wagon to pass through it along one side, so that when a laborer brings his plow, harrow, cultivator, &c., from the field, he can drive them directly into the tool house; and if not intending to use them, the next day can unload them in their proper places; but if to be used the next day, they could be left upon the stone boat or wagon, and the team driven out the other end. A portion of the tool house should be assigned to the hand implements.

Such a tool house having been provided, it ought to be an imperative rule that every laborer place his implement in its proper place, whenever the day's work is done. There would probably be some difficulty in executing such an ordinance at first; but if persisted in, the proprietor always setting the example, it would soon become a habit. To facilitate the housing of the heavier implements, a light stone boat should be provided for every work team, upon which the plow, harrow, cultivator, or other horse implements can be easily loaded (and as easily unloaded) and drawn to and from the field.

What adds more to the serenity of the farmer, when he goes in from his labor at night, and is gathered with his family around his cheerful fireside, than to know that *all is in order!* No tools exposed to rust and decay—no doors or gates swinging—no loose boards clattering on the buildings—everything in its place. We know that it is very difficult to change the life-long habits of an inveterate sloven, but they can be improved, and we appeal to the sons of such to avoid the habits of the parent, and even go around and restore order after him, and they may even without his cooperation, bring about such a change in favor of neatness and order, as to greatly increase the attractions of the old homestead.

A slovenly farmer is seldom a good farmer, never an *economical* one. If he cultivates his land thoroughly, he does not save all of its products. Much is destroyed by cattle or swine, which enter the fields through gates left open, bars left down, or a broken down fence, not promptly repaired; and after the crops are in the barn, the stock are getting in, or the rain and snow beat in where boards or shingles are off. Many dollars are annually lost in these ways, which an orderly farmer would save. The pecuniary losses suffered, are nothing compared

with the loss of temper, of happiness, through the worrying, fretting, and harrassing of body and mind.

How our landscape is disfigured by the home of the sloven, as above described; and how it is adorned by the neat, attractive home of the orderly farmer, with its well painted and well preserved dwelling and outbuildings, its lawn and garden, filled with ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, fruits, and vegetables, enclosed by neat, painted fences, gates latched and on their hinges, and everything in good repair!

Farmers! build up such homesteads as shall ever be the cynosure to the hearts of your children, which they shall leave with reluctance, and to which they shall return with joy!

### NOTES FOR THE MONTH, BY "S. W."

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

#### GROWING THE LARGE VARIETY OF RED CLOVER SEED.

Here is a farmer who has the seed grown on 7 1-2 acres for \$400, forty bushels at \$10 the bushel—it now sells at \$11. He sows the seed on his winter wheat. The next spring he pastures it until about the first of June, when it is left to mature its seed, which is certain to be a good crop. The usual practice of cutting a crop of clover hay, and then depending on the second crop for seed is very uncertain, and even if the season favors, the crop of seed is light compared with the other practice. As the large kind of red clover ripens later than the small variety, it is much better to sow with timothy seed, as they both ripen together.

#### HOW THE NITROGEN OF THE FOOD IS SAVED IN THE MANURE.

A correspondent of *The Southern Cultivator* asks if a planter has 1,000 bushels of cotton seed, in what way would he most benefit his crop, use it for manure, or feed it to hogs put up in a covered pen, and keep them supplied with straw and leaves. Would he not then get the full benefit of his seed as manure, and save several thousand pounds of pork besides, to pay for the trouble of cooking the seed, hauling in the bedding, and handling the more bulky manure? Most certainly, and with all the addition to the pile. Cotton seed, like flax seed, is very rich in nitrogen and phosphates. The oil is mere carbon, valuable to fatten the hogs and support respiration, but of little value as a manure; hence nearly all the manurial ingredients in the seed are saved, and made the means of enriching all the trash used as bedding for the fattening hogs.

#### THE EFFECT OF LIME ON THE SOIL.

Many farmers suppose that a limestone soil, rich in the carbonate of lime needs no application of

quick lime as an amendment. But the fact is that a long-worn, calcareous soil, is full of insoluble plant food, which quicklime alone can make into soluble food for the growing crop. Liebig says that all living clays contain potash in an insoluble state, and that while some soils hold the mineral elements of plants in a constantly soluble condition, there are others in which the necessary amount of the silicate of potash in a soluble state, is not sufficient for a single crop of wheat, and that "without the aid of time it is not separated from the insoluble masses in the soil in less than two, or three, or more years." The burning or heating to redness the most tenacious clays, not only destroys their adhesiveness, and develops their fertilizing element, but it also makes it a capital top dresser for an exhausted sandy soil. The theory that quicklime expels the ammonia from a freshly manured soil, has been long since exploded. It might do it from a manure heap, but when the manure is distributed in the soil, the lime acts only on the inert vegetable matter and the silicates. The soil itself has so strong an affinity for ammonia that it holds it from the lime. The same with guano; many suppose that guano if sown directly on the seed, will destroy their germinators; *per contra*, a planter writes to *The Southern Cultivator* that he always drills in Peruvian guano with his cotton seed with never failing success.

#### LIMESTONE LAND.

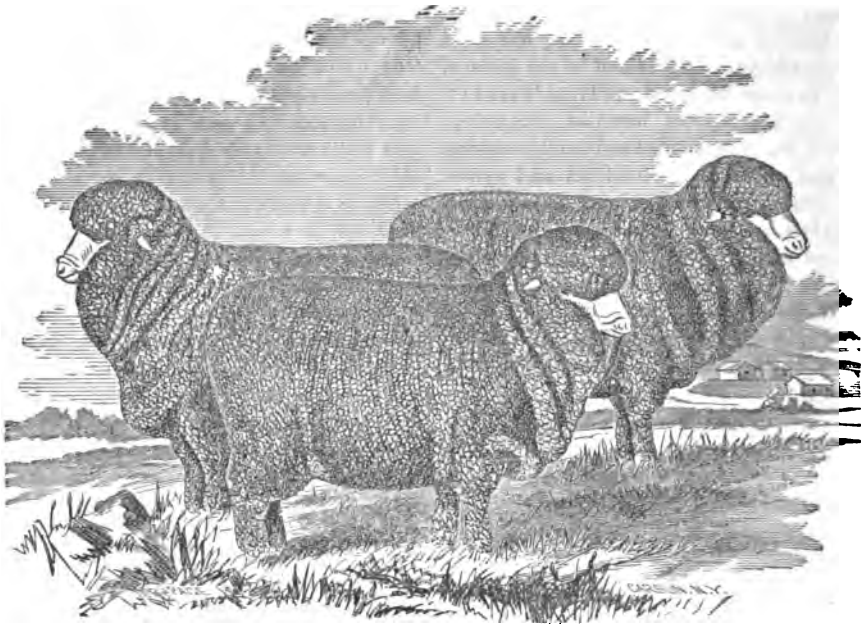
It is a saying of an old Cayuga County farmer, "that where there is limestone in the land, there will be pork in the barrel." Although all our best wheat and corn growing soils are rich in lime, there are other capital soils that produce more grass and keep more stock to the acre; but this is perhaps due more to the cool, moist climate, than to the superior grass bearing character of the soil. In the lower limestone regions of Western New York, the mercury rises higher in summer, and there are fewer showers than on the higher grass regions, where white clover never suffers from the drying solar heat.

#### WEATHER AND CROPS.

OUR correspondent in Dutchess County, N. Y., writes us, under date of April 12: "The weather is fine; grass and grain are looking green, farmers plowing, sowing spring grain, and planting potatoes. Some snow yet in sight."

We shall be pleased to receive "notes" from correspondents and subscribers, to publish under this head. Short extracts, giving particulars as to the crops, transactions of agricultural societies, or other matters of interest to farmers, are what we desire. We intend to devote one or two pages to this department during the summer and fall months. Will our agents in writing, give us any facts they may think will be of interest to their brother farmers?—

*Eds.*



### "GREEN MOUNTAIN GEMS."

Got by Bottom & Benedict's Ram, from Sweepstakes, owned by Edwin Hammond, of Middlebury, Vt. Dam purchased of N. and N. Bottom, of Shaftsbury, Vt., from Ewes bought of Mr. Hammond.

### CARROTS.

**MESSRS. EDS.**—Carrots are a valuable crop to feed to cattle, horses, and store hogs. I feed mine a peck a day with a moderate amount of hay in the winter, or half a peck of carrots and two quarts of oats, and about the same amount of hay. Without oats I think they are worth at least half as much as oats. I have made good beef with them, without much grain. For milch cows, they increase the quantity of milk, and give a good color to the butter, besides keeping them in good condition. Hogs fed on them will thrive, if they are fed sufficiently.

Mr. K. and Mr. N. think that beets fed to cows will produce more and richer milk, but I have preferred raising carrots more than beets, because I can raise more bushels per acre, and at less expense per bushel, especially as the hands are not applied in harvesting except in picking them up. If any are available for sale, the roots sell soonest. A tolerable crop will yield from four to five hundred bushels to the acre; on extra ground and pains, I have raised at the rate of fourteen hundred bushels an acre.

Three years ago, last fall, I sold in the field at 25 cents per bushel; delivered three and a half miles distant at 30 cents. Last fall I sold at 35 to 40 cents per bushel, three and a half miles from home. 500 bushels an acre, at 25 cents, would be \$125; at 30 cents \$150; at 35 cents \$175; at 40 cents \$200.

I live twelve miles from Rochester, and did not sell there. They have been worth 40 cents per bushel there for two or three years past. My neighbor, Mr. H., thinks he raises no kind of feed crop so profitable as carrots.

**Cultivation.**—The soil should be rich enough to bear good corn; not stony, nor too stiff; should be plowed well, dragged, and raked fine, and sown as soon as possible after plowing. If sown with a drill, it will pay to roll with a hand roller before sowing. Sow in rows about 18 inches apart, using about two pounds of seed to the acre. If sown in ridges, the ground should not be too dry. Some think it requires less labor to raise them by this method, but in this case they cannot be sown with a drill. Mr. S. tells me that he sows them on sward, and raises good crops. They do not show as well early in the season, but grow rapidly from August onward.

For cows I prefer the Long Orange variety. The White Belgian are quite as good for horses, because they are rather more tender. As soon as the plants are visible in the rows, they should be hoed with a scuffle hoe, which leaves all the dirt behind it, and does the work better by far than a common hoe, beside doing it at least twice as fast. They should be hoed again as soon as the weeds show themselves; and when the plants are grown an inch or more, weed them. If the ground is tolerably clean, they will need but one more hand weeding, which

however, should be done before the weeds get strong. If delayed too long, the expense of weeding will be increased, and the value of the crop diminished; if they stand over thick in the rows they should be thinned out.

In harvesting, the first thing to be done is to cut off the tops with a hoe, ground sharp for the purpose. These should be removed with a manure fork into small heaps. Pass along with a plow as close as possible to the row, and let another hand with a shovel or spade, back side towards the carrots, push them out, and another hand pick them up and put them into a wagon on piles. Three hands with a team, will dig about 100 bushels in a day by this method. The tops are as valuable for feed, if cut in season, as the roots, but not in proportion to the bulk. They should be sown early in May, but not later than the 10th of June

F.

Parma, N. Y.

### VERMIN ON CATTLE.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY HORACE THAYER.

DURING our long cold winters, young cattle, and even old ones, in poor condition, are liable to become afflicted with these pests; every experienced farmer knows full well, that cattle in such condition, will never thrive, but become thin in flesh, rough and hide-bound, restless and uneasy, continually feeling and rubbing against everything within their reach. Well fed cattle will not be troubled with vermin; but the farmer can not always keep his store cattle in a condition fit for the butcher. It is equally true that he cannot afford to feed animals covered with parasites; but if it is not for his interest to so feed as to prevent this pest, he should adopt some means as a preventive, or for removal when afflicted with them.

It is important for the successful treatment of any ailment, that we thoroughly understand its nature and origin. It is very common to hear farmers remark that it is impossible to keep cattle in their old barns without their becoming lousy, as though these vermin lived and breed from the refuse about the barn. Now this is a gross fallacy. How long, think you, these parasites would live, removed from the skins of the animals? Try the experiment if you will, by securing them in close quarters in broken straw or hay seed, and see how long they will live. The skins of the animals are their natural element, and they cannot exist elsewhere. This pest is as much a disease of the skin as the mange or scurf. Although contagious, it must originate in the first place with the cattle themselves. A certain condition of the animal often induced by feeding and management, will invariably lead to this disease.

As prevention is always better than cure, every

owner of cattle should adopt means to that end. If the farmer thinks it is unprofitable for him to keep his cattle in high flesh, he should realize that it will be for his advantage to feed them liberally and regularly, and to keep them clean and comfortably sheltered; with such treatment, and the stables kept sprinkled with dry sand, this trouble will be removed. It is well known that cattle are not affected with lice in the summer season, when lying upon the ground, and frequently pawing in the dirt; while bulls that are always pawing in the ground and sand, are very rarely troubled with the pest. This fact confirms the utility of dirt or sand. Every farmer or cattle keeper should provide an ample supply of fine sand in season to have it thoroughly dry before freezing weather, and place it in some dry and convenient spot, and whenever the stables are cleaned, sprinkle the floors with a few shovelful. The dry sand will work its way among the hairs of the animals, proving a certain preventive of vermin, and even driving them away, or destroying them after they have made a lodgment. Sand will also be valuable for absorbing the liquid, and a safeguard against slippery floors. We have tried sand, and know its efficacy. When cattle are badly afflicted, it may be sometimes necessary for their speedy removal, to wash the animal with a decoction of tobacco, boiled in chamber lye; or by applying lard upon the affected parts.\* Anguintum, and like violent poisons, are dangerous, and should be avoided; but usually will effect a cure. It may be necessary sometimes to sprinkle a little dry sand along the back of the animal. Sand is cheap and safe. Try it.

### HORSES.

EDS. FARMER:—Spring is the most disastrous season for horses. It is now that horses contract most of their diseases; therefore I wish to say a few words to the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER in regard to the proper care of horses.

First, *blanketing*. More than three-fourths of the farmers who start for the city early in the morning, leave their blankets at home, and when they "get in," hitch up to some post, go away to their trading, and think no more of the horse until they start "out" at night. The horse when left, is considerably heated, and oftentimes covered with a perspiration, the effect of dragging the wagon through the mud; the natural result is, that the horse takes a cold, which possibly terminates in lung fever, or leaves a disease about him from which he never fully recovers.

A great many farmers think it more profitable to keep mares, for when they are too old to work, they are used for breeders. In nine cases out of ten, the

\* Care must be taken not to use tobacco too strong.—Eds.

horses are broken down by improper treatment, and their constitution impaired by bad use. Now, who can expect a nice colt from such animals? Instead of this, we must expect a degeneration of the horse, and time and money thrown away on poor animals.

Secondly. Guard against those implacable foes, "mud fever," and "scratches," by taking sufficient care of your horses after you have driven them through mud. I have seen horses with the mud fever, whose legs were just as devoid of hair as the inside of their stomach. The only proper way to keep clear of these, is to wash off the horses' legs with cold water every time he comes in from a drive. After washing with a sponge, I generally throw a half pail full of water on each leg, and then rub them briskly with a wisp of straw, in order to restore the action of the blood. I have always followed these directions; and never been troubled with anything like scratches or mud fever.

KRALE SENDS.

### SORGHUM---No. 2.

#### Preparation of the Soil, Selection of Seed, Planting.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "L. F.," SOMERSET, N. J.

SORGHUM requires a rich, warm, gravelly soil. In general, any good corn ground will answer, except deep, loamy flats: these tend to increase the rankness of growth of the stalk, but give a darker colored and poor-flavored sirup. More depends on the kind of soil than many imagine, the best flavored and lightest sirup being produced on light, gravelly soil. The land selected should, if possible, be a field with a southern slope, as close as possible to the manufactory, and one that dries early in the spring to admit of early planting.

*Manure.*—In general, no manures should be applied to the ground before planting. Barnyard and other heating manures are especially to be avoided, unless the soil is quite poor, as they impart a disagreeable flavor to the sirup.

*Preparing the Soil.*—Having made choice of a suitable piece of ground, the next step is the preparation for planting. If the plat is a small one, it is a good plan not to begin until it can be prepared and planted the same day, the seed being put in immediately after plowing, has an equal chance with the weed and grass seed in the soil, which is not the case when the planting is delayed a week or two. The ground should be prepared by thorough plowing and by repeated harrowings and rollings be brought to the finest possible condition. It is then ready for marking. When it is desirable to have it planted in hills, like corn, it may be laid out simply furrowing it in both directions with a

common "corn-marker"; this mode of planting, however, does not admit of more than half the quantity of cane being raised from the same ground that can be raised by planting in drills. For drill planting the rows should be made three and a half or four feet apart, and run in one direction only. The rows should run in an *easterly and westerly direction*, as by this arrangement the liability of the crop to be blown down is greatly diminished.

*Selection of Seed.*—Whatever variety is planted, (and the planter can best judge which is best adapted to his situation,) only the best seed should be used. My own practice is to select the best and ripest heads, and then use only the seeds on the upper panicles.

*Planting*—is a very simple operation. The seeds should be dropped six or eight in a place, at a distance of 12 to 18 inches, if planted in drills, or the width of the furrows, if in hills, and covered half an inch with fine soil. An application of ashes, hen manure, or other like substance, will make the hills more plainly to be seen, and will prove beneficial in giving the plants a start. The hills should be closer or wider according to the coarseness of the variety, and with reference to the number of stalks it is designed to leave in a hill; more hills, and a few stalks in each, giving the largest returns. It is important that plenty of seed should be put in, to guard against loss of the crop by some of the seeds not germinating, as it is easier to pull up an excess of plants than to replace those that fail. Details of thinning and after-culture in my next.

*SMALL VS. LARGE FARMS.*—*Eds. American Farmer*:—I read your arguments in favor of *small* farms with a good deal of interest. Might I suggest an argument that to my mind is more important than any yet adduced, namely—society and educational facilities. In a school district, for instance, in which the farms are small, there are more families to support good schools, churches, lectures, &c., in the same area, and neighbors live in nearer proximity, affording greater facilities for social enjoyment and culture.—*W. M. D., New York.*

THE next annual fair of the Brookfield Agricultural Society will be held on the Society's grounds Clockville, N. Y., on the 1st and 2d of October next. The Illinois State Fair takes place at Quincy, Sept. 30, Oct. 5; Iowa, Clinton, Sept. 24-27; Mich., Sept. 10-13; New York, Buffalo, Oct. 1-4; Ohio, Dayton, Sept. 23-26; Wisconsin, Madison, Sept. 23-27; Vermont, Brattleboro, Sept. 10-13.

FLOUR in California was lately quoted at \$4.75 to \$6.05 per barrel, and hay at from \$8 to \$14 a ton, in gold.

**COUNTRY HOUSES—No. 4.**

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "W. H. W."

THE site being selected and everything needed otherwise being provided for, the first step is the excavation for the cellar; as a cellar is needed for the storage of many articles which must have a moist, cool air, and cannot well be kept otherwise. The construction of cellars to farm houses, as well as cellars in general, has too little attention given them. In the first place, they are as important in their capacity as any part of the house: important as conducting or otherwise, to the health of the family that may occupy the house. If properly constructed, they serve as a means of keeping the floor and rooms immediately above in a healthy condition; if illy constructed, they are often a source of much miasmatic or other disease. The cellar, if in springy or naturally damp ground, should be well and thoroughly drained.

A deep cellar is warmer in winter and cooler in summer than a shallow one. Settle it then not less than six feet and a half below the surface of the ground, and the bottom of the wall four to six inches below that, to afford perfect drainage. The wall below the surface of the ground may be laid up of rough stones, flat side down, in good cement mortar. It should not be less than two or two and one half feet thick, and well laid, as it is the *foundation* on which the house is to be built. The underpinning should be double thickness, with a vacancy for air between, to prevent frosts ever reaching inside.

Country houses are warmer not to raise the first floor far above the surface of the surrounding ground; twelve to eighteen inches is as high as any well located country house should be raised on underpinning. There should be suitable-sized, double-glazed windows, protected by bars, or wire cloth, inserted, in number sufficient to light a portion of it, so that one may see their way, and do ordinary work that is necessary in the cellar. A portion of it should be dark, and all parts of it should be arranged capable of being well ventilated at all times. A good means of allowing the escape of foul air would be to have a flue or flues connected with the chimneys of the house; this will tend to draw off the air, and keep it constantly fresh and sweet.

The bottom of the cellar, as well as the walls, should be cemented to keep it tight, and to keep out rats and mice, as well as to be easily cleaned when desirable. If the cellar is of considerable size, it should be divided into compartments fitted with reference to convenience of getting in, and storing provisions, &c., without needless or dangerous obstructions to those called upon to explore its dark

recesses. There should be an outside entrance by steps, and walled way, protected by suitable double doors for convenient outside entrance. The inside stairs should open from the kitchen, to save unnecessary steps to the housekeeper.

**FEATURES OF A PERFECT ANIMAL.**—A perfect breeding or feeding animal should have a fine expression of countenance—mild, serene and expressive. It should be fine in the bone, with clean muzzle, and a tail like a rat's. It should be short on the legs, and not ewe-necked. It should have a small, well-put-on head, with a prominent eye; it should have a skin not too thick nor too thin, covered with fine, silky hair—to the touch like a lady's glove; it should be straight-backed; well ribbed up and well ribbed home; the hook bones should not be too wide apart. A wide hooked animal, especially a cow after calving, always has a vacancy between the hook and tail, and a want of the most valuable part of the carcass. A level line should run from the hook to the tail. The outline ought to be such that if a tape is stretched from the fore shoulder to the thigh, and from the shoulder along the back to the extremity the line should be close, with no vacancies; and the line should fall without a void from the hook to the tail. From the shoulder blade to the head should be well filled up; as we say—good in the neck vein. Scarcely any one animal will possess all these marks; indeed, to look for the half of them in a good commercial animal would be vain. The marks are set down in good order, but just as they occurred to one who had gained his knowledge from the study of the living specimens, and not from books. Thick legs, thick tails, and deep necks, with thick skin and bristly hair, always point to sluggish feeders.—*Mr. McCombie before the Scottish Farmers' Club.*

**WHEAT PROSPECTS.**—We rejoice to hear, (says the Galt, Canada, Reporter,) from all the farmers with whom we have conversed, that the wheat appears to have come out of its winter's trials in capital condition. There appears to have been no winter-killing at all, and should we be favored for the balance of this month with anything like genial weather, the wheat will afford a strong contrast to what was exhibited last spring.

**CURIOUS DISCOVERY—HONEY BEE.**—"M. Von Siebold, in his recent work on Panthenogenesis, states among other extraordinary theories relative to the generation of bees and other insects, that the drone or male bees, are invariably produced from eggs laid by unimpregnated females."—*Annual of Sc. Discovery*, 1860, p. 408.

## OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

### TOBACCO CULTURE.

*Seed.*—At topping time save a suitable number of the earliest and best plants, without topping. One plant will furnish seed sufficient to grow plants for five or six acres. Keep the lower branches off. When the crop is ripe, strip the leaves from these plants, and tie up to a stake. When the seed bolls have turned a dark brown, without having been frozen, it is ripe. Cut, and hang up to dry where it will not be disturbed; select for use the most central and best pods, rub out with the hands, and screen through a fine sieve. Good seed will pop when thrown on the fire.

*Seed Bed.*—A rich, sandy loam soil is best, sheltered from cold winds, and well exposed to the sun in the early part of the day. The success of the crop greatly depends upon a good supply of early plants. As soon in the spring as the ground can be worked, dig, or plow in, two inches of good, fine manure, six or eight inches deep; burn a quantity of fine brush on the bed; rake off all coals or brands, and incorporate the ashes well in the soil; make the top of the bed smooth, level, and the soil very fine. Sow the seed broadcast, a tablespoonful to the square rod of bed, having mixed it with a pint of fine sand. Sow very even and true. Each square rod of bed will furnish plants to set an acre, if they come up well. Roll, or tread the surface level and smooth; cover with straight brush, tops to the sun at mid-day. Keep perfectly clear of weeds at all times. The young plants are exceedingly minute, with two nearly round leaves opening over flat on the ground. When the fear of frosts are past, throw off the brush for good.

*Soil and Preparation.*—The best soil for tobacco is a deep, rich, upland, sandy loam, of medium tenacity; others will produce a poorer quality. Heavy manuring is necessary for successful culture. Horse stable manure, well composted with straw, and rotted, is best; but any well fined manure is good. The manure well incorporated with the surface soil is the best for the crop. The ground should be well and *thoroughly* plowed twice—the first time the last of April or first of May; the second time two weeks before setting the plants. After the last plowing, cart on and spread broadcast, forty to fifty cart body loads of well fined manure, cultivate and harrow it well into the soil; this is done about a week before the plants are ready to set, with a marker lay off the rows, 3 10-12 feet apart; with a small plow open the drills, and into these strew guano and plaster, mixed at the rate of 150 pounds of the former, to 10 of the latter to the acre. Take a “shares anter,” with a wheel 30 inches in circumference,

with one cleat fastened to the outside to mark the hills, and cover the fertilizer, and you have a light ridge with the hills marked on top thirty inches apart for setting the plants. The rows should be *straight* for convenience in working.

*Transplanting.*—From the 1st to 15th of June is the most proper time, although it is seasonable up to the 1st of July frequently. A moist or wet time is best for setting, although by thorough watering it may be done at any time. Take the plants carefully from the bed, separating them, place them in a basket, and let a careful boy drop them one to each hill; a hand follows to set, which must be well and carefully done. With the two front fingers make a hole in the center of the hill, with the other hand place the roots of the plants therein, straight their whole length, press the dirt up close to the roots, and leave a little hollow around the plant, which should be set down to the collar, and the leaves spread. If well set, the plants will grow with scarcely any check; if poorly done, they will either die or grow very slow.

*Cultivation.*—As soon as the plants take root, run the horse cultivator through, and follow with the hand hoe, destroying weeds and leveling around the plants only. Repeat the cultivating and hoeing once in ten days, till too large to go among with the cultivator and horse, after which use the hoe to keep down all weeds, &c.

*Worms.*—Cut worms are to be looked after and destroyed immediately after setting, and as long as they work. When the plants get a foot high, often before, the green worm commences; at first, small, round holes are seen in the leaves; on the underside will be found a small, light, green worm, about half an inch long, and no larger than a small needle. A moth lays the eggs, fastening them to the underside of the leaf near where the worm does his first mischief. The eggs are a little lighter green than the leaf, and about the size of a small pin's head: destroy all found, and keep the plants free of worms by going through frequently, and collecting them; feed them to the poultry or kill them.

*Topping.*—Judgment is necessary to top at the right time and point, that there be no leaves wasted, or that will not mature. Some of the plants will be in blossom, while others may only show the button. Let them get up, so that the majority may be topped at once. Top to where the forward one's leaves are six inches wide, leaving the stem about 2 1-2 feet high; top to a uniform height if possible.

*Succoring.*—The top being broken off, the plant seeks to push upward by sending out shoots at the axils of the leaves; these should be broken off as fast as they make their appearance, that the growth may go into the leaves, the last succoring to be done immediately before cutting.

**Cutting and Housing.**—Cut as soon as the tobacco is ripe, which will be indicated by the color of the leaves changing to a mottled green, and when folded and pressed lightly between the thumb and finger break crisp and short. A sharp, rounding, pointed hay knife, or short, backed saw, are best for cutting, and after the dew is off, lean the plant back a little and under the bottom leaves, close to the ground. Lay the plants carefully down on the row to wilt; when somewhat wilted, turn over, and lay two rows together at right angles to the rows. When wilted sufficiently to handle without breaking, load on a platform-wagon crossways, butts uniformly one way, and haul to the barn. Look to it closely in the middle of a clear, sunshiny day, or it will burn; often twenty minutes will spoil most of the leaves which are exposed. Better at such times, haul in all cut in the morning before dinner, and cut again about 2 or 3 o'clock, P. M.

**Tobacco Barns.**—These are built, in size according to the quantity raised, or sheds and stables may be arranged for hanging, but the separate building is best. A building 80 by 32 feet, with 15 feet posts, will, by hanging three full tiers, and a part tier in the comb, hang an acre of good tobacco. Such a building should have the siding arranged on hinges, so that half of it may be opened, to give free ventilation; have a ventilation in the roof, and two tier of girts around and through the building, dividing the height into three equal spaces, the girts and beams to serve as rests for the poles. A half tier is hung on the purlin beams. Tobacco is hung with twine on poles, placing the plants one foot apart on alternate sides, or so as not to crowd, or on laths four feet long, these laths resting on scantling placed four feet, from centers, apart through the building on the girts, &c. An iron spear with a socket at one end, to which the lath are fitted is used. The plants are strung on these by running them through the stalk near the butt, from four to six plants each, according to size; they are then placed on the scantlings so as not to crowd. Give an open, free ventilation during pleasant weather till the tobacco gets nearly cured, then close up. In damp or wet weather, as well as nights, shut up the building.

**Stripping.**—When the stem of the leaf yields no juice upon wringing, the tobacco is cured. Watch a mild damp time so that the tobacco can be handled without breaking. Take it down and bulk it on a floor in a close building, butts out and tips in, lapping about one-third. Lay in straight, regular, alternate courses, packing close to exclude air, &c.; cover and weight it down to prevent drying out. The tobacco is made into two or three sorts according as it is more or less perfect. First the ground leaves are stripped off and done up by themselves for the poor. Next all imperfect leaves as second

quality, and last all the perfect leaves are stripped one leaf at a time, keeping the leaves of the same length in the same hank; the butts of the leaves of each kind are kept even and true, and tied by winding a leaf two or three times around, and drawing the tip through the hank. The hanks are made three to a pound; each kind is kept separate and bulked often to prevent drying out while stripping. When all is stripped the bulk should be covered close and well weighted down. Here it can remain, if secure from gathering dampness, to be inspected by the speculator, or you can case it in boxes two and a half feet square by three and a half feet long inside measure. Pack it butts to the ends of the boxes, lapping the tips. Fill the box and press it with follower and lever, or screw press. Three pressings will usually press into such a box 375 pounds; the cover is nailed on, and the boxes placed in a dry room or building, and the following season it will go through a sweat which makes it tobacco; placed in a warm room hastens the process. It should not be broken into while going through the sweat. It should be borne in mind that *thoroughness* in every stage, from the first to the last, is what gives the best results in raising tobacco, as well as all other crops; but it tells plainer with tobacco than most other productions. H.

### FLAX CULTURE.

**Soil.**—Flax is not confined to a limited range of soil; almost any soil that is free of water, or is not of a dry and sandy nature will grow it; but the best is deep, dry, friable loam, previously made free of weeds by clean culture, and in a high state of cultivation. If inclined to be at all wet, it should be underdrained, and subsoiled one or two years previous to putting it to flax. Flax should not be grown on the same soil often than once in five or six years. It may be grown in rotation with potatoes, corn, barley, oats, winter, or spring wheat.

**Preparing the Soil.**—No crop pays for a thorough preparation of the soil better than flax; and this preparation should be principally through previous crops by *thorough* culture. The soil should be brought into sufficient fertility by previous applications of manure, and have it thoroughly incorporated therewith, as freshly applied manure is not beneficial. Thorough fining the soil is necessary to raising fine fiber, and it should be done in anticipation of the crop. The ground should be well plowed the fall previous, soon after removing the crop, be well harrowed, and brought into the finest possible tilth by repeated workings, and finish with a heavy roller. All that remains for spring preparation, is to get the surface to the depth of three or four inches into a finely pulverized state by the cu'



tivator, harrow, &c. Having made the surface even and smooth, mark it out in beds of equal widths as a guide to the sower.

*Selecting and Sowing the Seed.*—Riga seed is the best; select the plumpest, heaviest seed, that which has a shining appearance and clean; test by sprouting in wet moss kept warm; good seed will sprout in forty-eight hours. No matter how clean it may be, pass it through a sieve, twelve bars to the inch, as a further precaution. Seed should not be mixed; that grown in different years germinating at different times, and making an uneven crop. The proper time for sowing is when there appears to be good reason to suppose that pinching frosts have passed, and the dryness of the land, and a fine settled state of the weather will admit. The proper quantity of seed when grown for lint, is 2 1-2 bushels per acre; when grown for seed, 3 pecks. I shall treat of growing flax for fiber or lint. Divide the seed according to the number of beds laid out, and sow one parcel to each bed broadcast, with a steady, even hand, being careful to spread it even. The seed is very slippery, and unless closely held, will slip from the hand in bunches, and spread accordingly; for this reason it is often advisable to cross sow, using one-half the seed each way. Cover the seed, by harrowing both ways the field with a fine, short-toothed harrow. If any rank weeds make their appearance they should be carefully rooted out, and no farther attention is needed till

*Time for Pulling.*—This is a nice point to determine, as practical growers disagree. A medium which may be proper to follow, is to observe the bolls and leaves. When the bolls begin to turn brown, and the leaves of the stalk become yellow, two-thirds their length from the ground, the lower half fallen, or ready to fall, and the field from a distance begins to assume a uniform yellow appearance, the proper period is indicated. When pulled by hand, which is the most saving and best way at present practiced, each laborer takes a strip about four feet wide, and spreads it in a swath behind him. The flax is grasped just below the bolls with both hands, and pulled with a sudden jerk, to clear it of the soil. When a handful is pulled, it is "butted" once or twice on the ground, to even it, and then spread the butts even in the swath. The long and short flax should be kept, each by itself, or there will be much waste in seed and fiber. After the flax has lain six to twelve hours, it should be turned over, and lie as much longer to dry, and then gathered into bundles, four or five inches through at the band, and bound and set on the roots, and left to dry a day or more. When thoroughly dry, haul to the barn, and place on a scaffold; or, it may be stacked in a long stack, high off the ground, the ends together, and covered with boards or thatched

to shed the rain. Flax may be cut with the grain cradle, scythe, or machine, but either is a wasteful way, when wanted for lint.

*Threshing Flax.*—When bound in small bundles, it may be whipped out over the head of a barrel, a plow turned bottom up, or a boulder. It may be threshed by raising the concave of a threshing machine so that the teeth may just come together, and the heads of the bundles presented, while the bundle is held firmly, and withdrawn as soon as the seed is off.

*Rotting or Retting.*—The flax being divested of seed, the remaining processes of preparing it for market properly belong to the manufacturer. But it is well for the grower to understand how to do this part also. The stalk consists of fiber or inner bark, and the woody inner portion, often called shroove, boon, &c. These are to be separated by rotting the woody portion and dressing it out, leaving the fiber only. Two processes are resorted to for rotting, one termed "Ærial or Dew Rotting;" the other "Water Rotting." The former method is performed by first spreading the straw, on a smooth grass plot, about half an inch thick in straight swaths, a few inches apart, and letting it remain subject to the action of dews, &c., a week or ten days, when it is turned over with a long smooth pole by running it under the top and turning it, resting on the root end. Here it lies till by breaking and rubbing the straw, the fiber comes out clean of the boon. The time for rotting will depend upon the weather, dry cool weather taking longer than warm and damp. The true and best way of rotting flax is to steep it in pure, soft water. If kept in the right length of time, it is all done even and alike, which is not the case frequently in dew rotting. It is rotted in much less time also in water. A pool is formed by excavating the earth three and a half or four feet deep, where it may be fully exposed to the sun, and a supply of water may be had, which is free from any minerals in solution. River water that has run some distance and become ameliorated by exposure to the sun, &c., is to be preferred to spring water. The sides of the pool are slanting to prevent sliding in. Place the bundles of flax straw against one side, slanting, roots down, and in regular rows. When it is all in, cover it with some kind of weeds, grass, or branches of trees, an inch or more thick. "Rag weed," is best for the amount of potash it contains. The water is then let on, if river, but in case spring water is used it should have been let in some days previous to putting in the flax. When it commences to ferment, which may be known by its rising, weights should be put on to keep it under water. After fermenting three or four days it will sink. Remove the weights and keep close watch of it till fully done. Examine it

daily after being in the water eight days, by feeling in the center of the bundles, in the center of the pool, if wiry to the feeling it is not rotted. When it begins to feel a little slippery, examine it hourly, till by bending a few straws over the finger, taken from the center of a bundle, the woody part breaks and the fiber parts free and clean. Lose no time now in removing it from the water, take it out carefully, and set it on the bank, somewhat inclining, to drain. Let it drain a few hours, when it should be taken to the field and spread, as for dew rotting; after drying one side, turn as before, to dry the other, when it is gathered into bundles, in the middle of a dry day, bound and carried to the barn, and put on a scaffold or mow, to await a convenient or suitable time for breaking, scutching, &c.

*Breaking and Scutching.*—These operations are performed by improved machines driven by hand or other power, and need no directions here. I have here treated flax as raised for fiber; yet some must be grown for seed. For this purpose a portion of the field should be saved and allowed to get fully ripe, and the flax stored in the seed till the last of winter, when the seed is got out, and the straw rotted, &c., in the spring.

W. H. W.

### HOP CULTURE.

It is very natural and a well understood fact that the principal motive which influences men to engage in any particular employment, profession, or business, is the hope of gain to themselves: the incentive is primarily the profit to be realized. Let the work but pay well, and we do not inquire very minutely into the question of congeniality with our tastes and preferences. Even the healthfulness of the employment is comparatively little considered. When, however, an employment presents itself which combines all these absolutely essential and secondarily desirable qualities, it is worthy of notice. The question of the healthfulness of the labor, the pleasure to be derived from it, may well be regarded when not conflicting with the profit of the thing. That which heads this article embraces all the qualifications mentioned. While the price of hops ranges from sixty to seventy cents per pound, and the cost of their cultivation does not exceed eight, comment upon the profit of the business is unnecessary. Work in the open air is healthful and agreeable; the love of beauty and symmetry, when combined with utility and economy is nowhere better gratified than in a carefully trained hop yard.

In this brief essay, it will be impossible to touch upon many facts deserving of note, many of which are to be found, Messrs. Editors, in a treatise upon "hop culture" advertised in your paper. All there will be space for here, will be a few general remarks and

hints upon the manner of training hops. Hops should be grown upon good wheat land. Lime is essential to the production of good hops, as it is of wheat, and if the soil be destitute of this element, it should be artificially applied in the spring, at the rate of a pint to each hill. The hills should not set closer than eight feet apart each way. Eight and a half feet apart each way is better than eight, in all the Middle States, while upon the rich prairie lands of the West, and indeed upon bottom lands in any State where long heavy vines are natural, the hills should be placed nine feet apart each way. The danger from blight, mold, and other diseases, is far greater when the hills are crowded, than when a free circulation of air is possible. The latter is indispensable in our hot, dry climate—more so than in England; and there the planters have lately reduced the number of hills per acre fifty per cent, and gain by it.

The ground should be prepared as for corn, and the stakes set the first year, when all the vines which grow should be allowed to run on the stake. This stake should be seven and a half or eight feet in length before setting, and placed one foot in the ground. Some hoed crop, as beans, or potatoes, should be planted between the hills the first season. A small crop of hops is gathered the first year, but it takes two years to obtain a full-sized crop. Usually the amount of hops obtained the season the sets are put in, will be more profitable than the crop sowed between the hop hills, and will exceed all the expenses of planting; but the great crop is not forthcoming until the next season after planting. The second year a tarred twine is run across the field, winding once around the tops of the stakes at right angles in both directions. Four vines only are then trained up the stake to the string at the top, where they are separated, and one trained off in each direction upon the strings, as far as they will run; the remainder of the shoots are buried at the bottom of the stake. If the stakes are but six and one half, or seven feet high when set, a man can easily train the vines upon the string, while walking upon the ground. If the stakes are longer than this, the vines will be so far up above reach, that the labor of tending them is greatly increased. Occasionally a man blunders upon this point, and trains his yard so far above his reach, that he is obliged to go upon horseback to manage the vines, and then, like the man who acknowledged to an agricultural paper that "the horizontal method of training hops was undoubtedly the cheapest in use," yet it was so much trouble to ride on horseback, or climb a pair of stairs to reach his vines *which he had trained ten feet high*, that the trouble was a great objection to the method. To be sure, a yard trained upon stakes and strings *ten feet high*, would

be coming within the sphere of this patent; but it is a yard too high up in the air to reap the principal advantages to be derived from it. Another error more common than the last, is that of attempting to train the vines hap-hazard—either with or against the sun, as it may happen. They can only be trained with the sun, i. e., from the right hand over to the left. If put on the wrong way, they only squirm off in their endeavors to grow as nature intended them to grow, and no amount of persuasion or even force, has any effect towards changing their nature.

The economy in harvesting a trained hop yard is noticeable. Neither boxes, box tenders, or pole pullers are wanted. The twine is slipped from the top of the stake, and the vines are lowered as they are picked, and afterwards put up out of the way. No vines are cut or stakes removed at harvesting. After harvest is over, and the vines have matured, the root for its next year's work, when their day is over, and their night has come, the dead vines are stripped from the stakes, which are housed for the winter, the twine is removed and saved, and the old brush is burned in heaps on the ground. The hops are picked in baskets, which are emptied as fast as filled, into sacks, in which they are taken to the kiln. One man can keep tally for, and attend to from twelve to sixteen pickers. A five bushel basket grain measure is four bushels hop measure, which is a convenient size for picking. Each picker has a card on which the tallyman marks the number of bushels he picks, and enters the account upon his own book at the same time. The green hops are carried to the kiln and spread upon the drying floor as often as twice each day, as if they are left longer in the sacks they are liable to become injured by heating. The form of the kiln, its stoves and furnace room, drying floor, and press room, are all so well described in the book referred to above, as to be unnecessary to be mentioned here.

Ventilation is very important. A large current of air is admitted at the bottom of the furnace room, passes through the layer of hops evenly spread over the drying carpet, and passes out at the top of the building, which is carried up high enough to produce a strong draft, with the help of the cowl at the top, which turns with the wind. The improvement in the kiln consists in a floor cloth, which winds off upon a shaft by means of a lever, and empties the dry hops into the store room without the necessity of the hand labor usually required. Four or five minutes will empty one layer and start a fresh one, without the breaking of hops and loss of lupulen by sifting down, attending the other method of shoveling out the hops. The carpet lies upon slender slats brought to a quarter inch edge, or on wires which permit the drying of the hops without stirring or turning them, as it is customary

to do in common kilns where the cloth must necessarily lie upon two-inch slats to bear the weight of the kiln dryer. The dried hops must remain in the cooling room until perfectly cool, and then may be baled, and are ready for market. But it is more generally practiced to place the dried hops, when cooled in a large bin or room prepared for the purpose, and left for some weeks before baling; in that case the room should be tight, no current of air passing through it, and kept dark. An air-tight room packed full, will preserve them better when suitably dried, than to put them in bales, or any other way. The store room should be large enough to hold the crop. The Harris press is the best in use. It is portable, and one is sufficient for a neighborhood. Two or three men can bale a ton in a day.

F. W. C.

### STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

*Soils.*—Strawberries will grow in any soil where Indian corn will thrive; like that, the better and more thoroughly prepared, the better the crop. Some particular varieties will thrive upon a dry sandy soil, where it is almost impossible to keep some of the later improved varieties alive. Generally the strawberry requires a deep, rather moist soil, open, and porous. To produce abundantly, moisture must be had in good supply. A naturally heavy, close soil, should be underdrained and subsoiled; if sandy, or gravelly, fibrous muck, or similar material, must be added, to enable it to retain moisture. Deep working, thorough pulverizing the soil, with a liberal supply of mulching, will usually insure the needed supply of moisture.

*Manure.*—The plants to produce abundantly, require pabulum, and if the soil is not well supplied, it must be added; and very little necessity is there to caution the putting on too much. Any kind of manure obtainable on the farm, if well decomposed, is suitable. Muck, leaves, ashes, old soda, &c., applied separately, or composted with barn manure, are good. For applying to fruiting plants, avoid fresh, or nitrogenous manures. In all soils that have been long in cultivation, a good top-dressing of manure is beneficial. Make the ground smooth and level, and all coarse lumps fine, or remove entirely.

*Time to Plant.*—The strawberry may be safely transplanted at any time; but the best time is either April or early in September. Plants carefully set in September, will give a fair crop the following season, while those set in spring will bear very few, if any, till the next year. When set in spring, all half dead leaves should be removed, and the roots shortened about one-third their length. Young runners, well rooted, only should be used.

*Planting.*—Field or garden culture are very simi-

lar, except that in garden culture the plants are set in beds four feet wide, planting three rows on each bed, one in the middle, the others on either side, eighteen inches apart, and the plants eighteen inches apart in the rows. Choose moist or cloudy weather for transplanting; or if dry, give the plants when set, a good soaking with pure water, and as often as the foliage droops thereafter. In field culture, set your plants in rows two and a half feet apart, and one foot in the rows. Spread the roots, and cover to the depth they stood in the ground before. Press the dirt close and compact around them. Pistillate varieties will require every sixth row in field, or every third bed in garden culture, set with a hermaphrodite variety to fertilize the pistillates. Keep perfectly free of weeds, and stir the surface of the soil often. Keep the runners down, or at farthest, let them run into rows. The plants will usually keep in bearing longer to keep the runners entirely off. A good mulch of the plants soon after planting, will preserve the plants from drouth, where the soil is dry and sandy. At the approach of winter, cover the entire surface, plants and all, with straw, to the depth of an inch or more. As soon as the plants start in spring, open the straw over the crowns, so the plants may push up through. Pull up all weeds that come through the mulch; a few ashes scattered around the plants two or three times during the season improves the crop. When the beds begin to fail, new ones should be formed on new soil, and the old ones occupied for two or three years with some other crop. New plants are grown by allowing the runners from the crowns of the plants to take root. The foregoing is for best results. Very good crops may be had with less trouble, although the better culture pays the best. The following is a description of a few of the varieties cultivated and before the public. There are a very large number of others that may be equally desirable, depending upon locality, &c. The most productive and generally cultivated market berry is the

*Wilson, (H.)*—A large, conical, crimson berry; as picked for market, hard and sour; but when well ripened, of fair to good quality. On the whole, the best we have of the large varieties.

*New Jersey Scarlet, (H.)*—Of medium size, conical, lively scarlet color; very early, and much prized where it originated, Burlington County, N. J.

*French's Seedling, (H.)*—Sometimes large in size, oval, light scarlet, very productive, and fair quality. Does not carry well to distant markets.

*Peabody, (H.)*—Size, medium to large, rich crimson, with a long, polished neck; solid flesh, and colored to center, sweet and excellent flavor.

*Triomphe de Gand, (H.)*—Large, irregular shape, crimson, firm, flavor disliked by some; a good market berry in some localities.

*Jucunda, or No. 700, (H.)*—Size large, conical, regular in shape and size, flesh firm, white, hollow, and flavor to suit those who like the last; productive.

*Bartlett, (H.)*—Of good size, tolerably solid, high flavor, first class fruit, rather a shy bearer.

*Durand's Seedling, (H.)*—Large, peculiarly oblong and flattened; seeds but slightly sunken, bright scarlet, firm, solid, nearly white, juicy and well flavored; of good promise for family and market purposes.

*Lady Finger, (H.)*—Elongated, conical, sometimes broadly so; brilliant scarlet, solid and firm, somewhat, colored, sweet, and of good flavor, produces fair crops, surface beautifully honey-combed.

*Perry's Seedling, (H.)*—Size medium to large, nearly globular, with a slight neck, bright crimson flesh, sometimes colored, moderately firm, sweet, with rich, sprightly flavor.

*McAvoy's Superior, (P.)*—Size, large, round, somewhat irregular, deep scarlet, fine flavor, and productive.

*Russell's Prolific, (P.)*—Very large size, bright scarlet, oblong, sometimes flattened, good flavor, and very productive. One of the best of pistillates.

H. W.

A SURE CURE FOR THE GARGET.—Garget or inflammation of the udder, causes serious distress to cows, frequently, and sometimes entirely destroys her usefulness as a dairy cow. It can be effectually cured by administering half a teaspoonful of tincture of aconite given in a little ground feed. I have known cows, when it was impossible to draw the milk, cured in twenty-four hours' time. Given at night, unless in extreme cases, the cow will be well the following morning. One dose is sufficient usually. Being a dairyman, and having some experience with the garget, I know the above remedy to be an effectual one. This receipt is worth more to any farmer than the price of THE FARMER for one year.—W. D. D., Spencer, O.

STUMP-FOOT CABBAGE.—Our esteemed correspondent, Horace Thayer, of Massachusetts, writes us an article on the above subject, which we have not room to print entire. His conclusion is, that if the ground is properly prepared and enriched, both for raising the plants and the cabbage, so that they are kept in a vigorous and healthy growth, from first to last, there will be no stump-foot. He also thinks careless transplanting, by which the roots are doubled up, is a cause of stump foot. Without admitting that he has arrived at the true cause of the disease, we would advise cabbage growers to follow his advice and if they do not always escape the disease, they will pretty generally raise good crops.—Eds.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

### A Cheap Cistern.

W. J. Robbins, Pleasant Valley, Pawnee County, Nebraska, writes to the Farmers' Club, New York, as follows, on the construction of a cheap cistern:—First, dig a hole, circular, say 11 feet across, and 2 or 2 1-2 feet deep; now strike a circle on the bottom of this, 7 feet across, and dig 7 or 8 feet deep, digging straight and smoothly down, and shaping the bottom like the large end of an egg; get one barrel of water lime and some good sharp sand; mix 2 1-2 measures of sand with one measure of lime of the right consistency for plastering, put a bucketful of the mortar in the bottom, spreading it around say two inches thick, lay a board or flat stone 16 or 18 inches square in the mortar, and plaster on the clay from a quarter to half an inch thick on up to the shoulder left in digging, being careful to round the corner of the shoulder off, so that the weight of the top will not burst off the plaster. Let the first coat dry 24 hours, then put on a second coat of the same thickness and kind of mortar; now procure two sticks of burr or white oak, or any lasting timber, say 6 or 8 inches over, and 10 feet long, flat one side, to lay on the ground down on the shoulder, lay them 20 inches apart across the middle; make your curb 20 inches square and 4 or 4 1-2 feet high, and nail it in between the timbers. Fill in around the curb on the shoulder with timber, boards, &c., making it tight, so that dirt will not work through; fill up around the curb with dirt, a little above the surface of the ground, to drain properly, let it stand a week, and you will have a cistern that will hold water enough for any common family.

### Hops in the West.

The editor of *The Des Moines (Iowa) Register* published in a recent issue, some facts on Western hops, which we copy. He commences with an extract from a letter from H. H. Starks, Monticello, who says:—"I am engaged in the hop growing business. I am raising them on poles and strings. I like it first rate. I had about four acres last year. I hoed them some three times. I sold them for 51 1-2 cents per pound, making some \$3,000. There are some fifty acres of hops set out here, now. There will be over 100 acres more next spring. They will mostly be on the Collins' string plan. I am selling roots for \$20 per acre and have contracted some sixty-five acres." To which the editor adds:—"This thing tells its own story. Three thousand dollars for the products of four acres, should be enough for any one man; but this gentleman proposes to sell from his little patch, roots enough to set out sixty-five acres. This, at \$20 per acre, will give him \$1,300 for the surplus roots of his hop field—still leaving enough to raise the next crop. The price for the hops and the price for the roots make the receipts of four acres the snug little sum of \$4,300. Where are four acres of Polk County that equal these? We lately heard the fact stated that in Sauk County, Wisconsin, the hop crop sold last year for over half a million dollars. The soil of that region is said to be only moderately fertile at best, and in some portions sterile.

If this immense sum can be brought yearly into our county revenue, would it not be worth while to make a trial for it. A light, sandy loam is said to be the best, and we surely have that.

### The Western Wheat Crop.

A writer in the *St. Louis Democrat* makes some observations on the coming wheat crop of St. Louis county, which, as the weather has been similar, will probably apply throughout the West. He says:—Wheat was sown throughout the county to a larger extent than in any previous year. In the moist and warm ground it germinated and sprouted within four or five days, and continued growing until the frosts of the latter part of November, when it showed a robust stand, such as has not been seen for many a fall. The thick coat of snow (also grumbled at as a matter of course) now covering the ground, is another blessing. That snow shelters our wheat as under a universal hot house, and a good one too, keeping the plants alive, but not allowing its growth, which is its best possible condition.

### Measuring Potatoes.

The following rule for ascertaining the number of bushels of apples, potatoes, &c., in bins and boxes, is recommended as simple and accurate, by a correspondent of *The Mirror and Farmer*. For the number of even bushels, multiply the number of cubic feet in the bin by 8, and point off one decimal. For heaped bushels, multiply by 8 twice, and point off two.

### Road Making.

The following hints upon this subject, we find worthy of consideration; and as in the spring much time is devoted to repairing and making roads, we give them for the benefit of farmers and others:—In road making, one great requisite is the ready and total removal of all water. There cannot be a good road where water stands by the side of or on it. If the ditches have no ready outlet, the road bed will soak up the moisture more or less, by capillary attraction, and thus remain rutted and muddy. It is vain to think of having a good road on a subsoil filled with stagnant water. Even on side hills, if water remains on the upper side, it will injure the road by passing under. Provide, then, if possible, for the thorough drainage of your roads, either by surface or covered ditches. See that the road-bed is evenly and slightly rounded, so that the water can readily find its way to the drains. If the soil is clayey or loamy, give it a few inches of gravel, or even coarse sand, and you will have a fine and pleasant passage way. If the soil is sandy, it needs an addition of clay to correct it, and this will correct it so that good roads may be had over the lightest sandy soils.

### Peach Trees in Pots.

J. R. Comstock, of Dutchess County, N. Y., writes to *The Horticulturist*, that he succeeds well in growing peach trees in pots and tubs, and wintering them in the cellar, from whence they are taken in spring, after all danger of frosts, to the specimen orchard out doors, and there placed in the earth to the tops of the pots or tubs.

### The Coming Oats Crop.

We clip the following from *The Gettysburg Compiler*, whose editor is a practical farmer and a gentleman of close observation:

Early sown oats generally yield better than late sown—it is certainly heavier in the grain. Hence our farmers are always anxious to get it in during March, and put all other work aside to accomplish it. But from present appearances there will be little, if any sown in the present month. The snow is at this writing several inches deep, and even if there be no more it is hardly possible that the ground will be sufficiently dry for the plow in the next ten days. What then had better be done to secure a fair yield of oats, late as the seed must necessarily go in? We recommend the application of phosphates with it, and base the recommendation on the striking result obtained from such an experiment last year. We had a single barrel of Baugh's Raw Bone Superphosphate, (250 pounds,) applied to nearly two acres of poor ground immediately after plowing. The land was then harrowed, and the oats sown, the harrow following. The oats on the land so treated came up much stronger than that alongside which had no phosphate—kept ahead during the season, ripened fully a week earlier, and yielded a hundred per cent more straw and oats. Some observers thought the difference greater, and it probably was, but we desire to be on the safe side in stating the result. It is believed that one hundred pounds of Baugh's Superphosphate per acre, on thin land, will make fair oats—and we intend using that quantity to the acre on our entire crop this season. We expect by this application to secure a more vigorous growth, an earlier harvest, and a crop more increased in value than the phosphate will cost. It is to be hoped many others will do likewise. It will certainly pay.

### Early Tomatoes and Cucumbers.

A correspondent of *The Farm and Fireside* says he gets tomatoes and cucumbers two or three weeks earlier than they are usually found in Northern markets, by adopting the following plan:—"Our tomato practice is to scrape out two dozen or so fair-sized turnips to thin shells, fill them with rich garden mold, plant a few seeds in each, place them in a box of earth, covering quite up to the top, place the box in a warm room. After the plants are up, water when required, give light, and out-door air on all pleasant, warm days. Select the strongest plant in each shell to grow, pulling out the others. Pinch back too vigorous shoots, urge stout, stocky growth by frequent slight feedings of tepid sour milk—sometimes weak soap suds, and when the frost season is fairly past, set turnip shells, tomato plants and all in the out-door soil where they are to grow, and they will go right on growing, without any hesitation or standing still, as they do coming out from a hot bed.

Cucumbers we persuade forward in the same manner; planting them in blocks of turf instead of turnip shells, and almost always we have tomatoes and cucumbers well set on the vines before setting them in out-door position. Cucumbers, white, crisp, cool, tender, almost seedless; free from all unpleasant,

earthy taste, and as delicate and delicious as cucumbers can be, may be induced by simply placing the small fruit within a section of drain tile, flower pot, or old bottle, with the neck knocked off, covering them from the sunlight, and growing them to table size in the dark."

### Liquid Manuring.

D. W. Lothrop contributes an article to the March number of *Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture* on the application of liquid manure, which is full of good sense and good suggestions. The urine of a horse or cow, falling on fresh clover at a dry time will kill it—but just after a shower will do no injury. This shows the necessity of diluting it before applying to plants. Mr. Lothrop regards nearly all manurial liquids as dangerous, more especially those of the household, as chamber slops, suds and sink water. Therefore great care should be exercised in their use. Large numbers of trees have been killed by a too frequent application of strong soap-suds. Proper liquidation, and general fermentation, seems to be the only safe conditions for the application of liquid manure to plants during the growing season, but in the autumn months the same caution is not so necessary.

### Remedy for Scours in Calves.

Mr. B. S. Farnham, informs *The Maine Farmer* that he has found rennet a sure remedy for scours in calves. Last spring he had a nice calf that was badly troubled in this way, and tried several remedies recommended by friends, all of which proved ineffectual. He then tried rennet, taking a piece about as large as a thimble, soaking it in a cupful of water, and giving it to the calf. One such dose effectually checked the disorder. As this often proves a very troublesome disease among calves, it may be well for our readers to remember the above.

### Restoring the Breed of Canadian Horses.

We learn with much pleasure, that a vigorous effort is being made to renew our Canadian horses from Normandy and Brittany, whence they came at first. This renewal is necessary on account of the constant drafting away of the best of our horses to the United States. In a few weeks the following horses will arrive, viz.: A Percheron stallion each for the Society of Beauharnois, L'Assumption, and Vercheres; a Breton stallion each for the Society of Chateauguay, and Mr. Herbert, of that place; and one Anglo-Norman horse for the Huntingdon Society. These six stallions will be followed by many others. We prefer the Percheron breed, and could not recommend the Anglo-Norman.—*Minerve*.

### Greasing Boots.

*The Farm and Fireside* says that pure, neatsfoot oil, two or three times applied, and well warmed in, will more effectually fence out water, make dry feet, soften and preserve leather, better than any other application we have ever tried.

### An Aged Horse.

A correspondent of *The Turf, Field, and Farm*, writing from Galesburg, Mich., states that a horse owned by the Michigan Central Railroad, died in the early part of January, at the age of forty-four years. The above mentioned horse was probably the oldest in this country.

## HOW TREES GROW.

### For the Girls and Boys.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT  
BELFAST, MAINE.

DEAR GIRLS AND BOYS:—I am pleased to meet you looking so cheerful and happy. Come in all of you. A month has passed, and how different and changed everything is out-doors, everywhere. The air blowing to us from the south is soft and warm. The snow banks and great masses of ice have melted away and run down to the ocean in brooks and rivers, and the fields, gardens, and trees are all being clothed in a clean, bright, new dress of leaves, while the birds are fast coming back to their summer home. By and by the groves and orchards will be full of their music all day long as they busily fly to and fro, choosing their homes and building their nests. And the fields and gardens will be full of flowers, making the country a place of beauty, and filling our hearts with love and gratitude for our great and good Father who has formed all these things for our use and pleasure.

But, I promised to tell you how trees grow—how the shrubs in the garden, the apple and the elm, the mighty and huge oaks and pines in the field and forest, came to be what they are. It was done little by little. They were, each one, once a tiny seed, which buried in the ground, germinated and sprung up a tender shoot, growing larger year after year. When it comes cold weather, and near winter, trees stop growing, and prepare to rest or go to sleep during the winter season, and most of them drop their leaves. But when the warm April sun shines down upon their roots and branches, they wake up, and their sap, which is the tree's blood, begins to circulate in their veins. The buds swell, and help draw the sap up through the pores of the wood of the tree, from the roots, and it soon moves fast up the trunk to the buds, which burst open and form leaves, which are the tree's lungs, and then it begins to breathe. With its first breath the tree life commences, and the sap, juice, or blood drawn up from the earth through the roots, is brought into contact with the air by means of the leaves, and it is then fit to make wood of; so it returns down the tree, passing between the wood and the bark on the outside, and as it goes along, soon hardens, forming the ring or layer of wood which you will see in any tree, and which is formed or made once in a year. When the sap first begins to pass down, it is thin and watery, and bark is loose and lumbermen say it "peels well." This is the time you make whistles of the willow, and the chestnut, and other wood, and get slivers from the pine. In a few weeks you know the sap hardens into a layer of wood under the bark, and the bark will not "run" or peel off.

When the bark of the hemlock tree "runs" or peels easily, which is in June or July, the lumbermen go into the great forests, cut down the tall hemlocks, and peel off their bark in strips four feet long, which is hauled to market and sold to the tanners who grind it, and use it to tan hides. The bark contains a substance called *tannin* which soaked into the pores of the skin or hides of animals make leather, of which our boots and shoes, harness, &c., are made.

Have you got tired listening? I hav'nt told you how the blood or sap of the tree is made or where it comes from. I suppose you know that trees have a great many roots which are all under and in the ground. In fact, it is said a tree has the same amount of roots as limbs. Well, these roots are the makers or gatherers of sap in its crude state from the soil. The roots branch into rootlets much smaller and finer in size than the limbs and twigs, and the very finest of these rootlets are called *spongules*, and have a little mouth at the end to suck up their food from the earth. These rootlets are very numerous and exceedingly small, being perhaps less in size than needle points. They are continually drawing in sap or food from the soil, and sending it into the larger roots from which it passes to the pores of the wood of the tree trunk, up which it moves to the limbs, then to the twigs, and finally it reaches the leaves or lungs of the tree, when it comes in contact with the atmosphere, which causes certain chemical changes, when it is fit to make wood. It now turns and retraces its steps downward, but passes between the bark and wood forming a layer as it passes along during the year. What sap passes the whole length of the trunk, and is not taken up to make the ring of wood, goes on down the roots and is excreted or thrown off into the soil as of no use.

There, I have given you a lesson in vegetable physiology. Can you remember it? Good by.

PLASTER—ITS VIRTUE AS A MANURE.—It has been found by experiment that in the main, the good effect of plaster is due to the sulphuric acid which it contains, or more particular to the amount of sulphur which it contains. If a plant is watered by sulphuric acid very much diluted with water, it will produce the same effect as the application of sulphate of lime. But its good effect in some cases is not to be attributed to the sulphuric acid, but a portion is due to the effect of the lime which it contains.—*Ex.*

SHEEP SHEARING FESTIVAL.—The wool growers of Michigan, will hold a sheep shearing festival at Ann Arbor, May 7th.

New York State Sheep Breeders' Fair, Auburn, May 8-10.

## Horticultural.

### THE GARDEN.

In Western New York but little land was in suitable condition to work this year until about the middle of April. As the spring did not begin early, we are unable to determine whether it is an early spring or not, until we see what May brings forth. The first half of April was cold and rainy, freezing nearly every night, and raining about three days in the week.

All those vegetables sown last month will want hoeing, and the sooner, after the plants make their appearance, the better, not only because it makes the labor of subduing the weeds less, but because it loosens up the soil, compacted by the frequent rain of April.

*Asparagus*.—Is now ready to be cut for the table, and for our use we prefer to let the stalks get from 4 to 8 inches above ground, and cut it off even with the surface, as it is then all tender and eatable.

*Beans*.—Plant early in the month, Valentine, China, Mohawk, and Rachel, and later, Refugee and Marrow-fat. They will yield more if sown in drills two feet apart.

*Pole Beans*.—Require more careful culture, especially the Lima—best of all beans—which should not be planted until warm weather is well assured. Stick the poles firmly, dig in some fine manure around them, and plant four good beans to the hill, eyes down, 1 1-2 inches deep. *Asparagus*, Dutch Case-Knife, London Horticultural, Scarlet Runner, and Red and White Cranberry, are good sorts.

*Cabbage*.—Sow for late crop. Premium Flat Dutch, Stone Mason, Drumhead Savoy, Green Globe Savoy, and Red Dutch for pickling in rows, nine inches apart.

*Cauliflower*.—Sow same as cabbage, Half Early Paris for medium, and Lenormand for late.

*Carrot*.—Sow Long Orange, in rich, clean soil, rows, 11 inches apart.

*Celery*.—May yet be sown for late crop.

*Corn*.—About the middle of the month, plant Early Darling, Dwarf Prolific Sugar, and Stowell's Evergreen, 3 by 3, in good rich soil. A little fine manure in the hill, gives the corn a start.

*Cucumbers*.—In this latitude it is unsafe to turn cucumbers, forwarded in pots or on sods, in the hot bed, into the open air, until the last of the month, as they are very sensitive to frost or chilly air. A shovelful of rotten manure should be worked into each hill. The hill should be prepared in the same way for planting seeds. If confined to one variety, we should choose the White Spined. In addition, the Early Russian, and Long Green, are good sorts. To make allowance for insects, 10 or 12 seeds should be sown to each hill. Four feet each way is a proper distance.

*Egg Plants*.—Should not be transplanted until warm weather is well assured, as they are very tender.

*Melons*.—Should be planted same as cucumbers—mush melons 4 by 4, water melons, 6 by 6. Green Citrons, Nutmeg, and White Japan, of the former, and Mountain Sprout, and Ice Cream, of the latter, are the leading sorts.

*Nasturtium*.—Should be planted where it can have something to climb.

*Okra*.—Can be sown in drills, and thinned, or planted in hills, 2 feet by 15 inches.

*Onions*.—Be careful that the weeds do not get the start, or the labor will be worth more than the crop.

*Parsnep*.—May yet be sown for main crop.

*Potatoes*.—If the early varieties were planted as directed last month, only the later ones now remain. Garnett Chill, Fluke, Mercer, and Peachblow are good varieties, except in localities where they are subject to disease.

*Radishes*.—May be sown for a succession.

*Rhubarb*.—That planted a year since is now ready for use. The stalks should be pulled off—not cut. Do not use it so close as to injure the plants.

*Salsify*.—May be sown as directed last month.

*Squashes*.—The bush sorts should be treated same as cucumbers—the running kinds as watermelons. Yellow and White Scollap, and Summer Crookneck, of the former Boston Marrow and Hubbard of the latter.

*Tomatoes*.—Should be transplanted in hot bed to give more room, and the last of the month transplanted into the open air. Remember to saturate the roots thoroughly before removing from hot bed.

### FRUIT GARDEN.

The small fruits should all have been planted last month, but if neglected, plantations, of strawberries may yet be made. It would be well to trim off a portion of the leaves. The great work of the month in the fruit garden is to keep the growing plants clean. In the latter part of the month it is a good plan to mulch with almost any kind of coarse litter, that will slowly decay, keeping the roots cool and moist, all varieties of small fruits, especially strawberries, currants and gooseberries. The large English of the latter varieties, are frequently grown with success, simply by mulching. It may be applied from two to four inches in thickness. Once or twice in the season the mulch should be raked one side and the plants hoed.

All these operations seem to many farmers to require too much labor, and they are likely to come to regard the garden as an expensive luxury; but we would respectfully ask them, what other portion of the farm, for twice the labor, will return so much substantial food and wholesome luxury, as a well kept garden?

### HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

The past winter was rather a favorable one in Western New York, for fruit, with the exception of peaches. The thick mantle of snow spread over the earth, protected the roots of plants from severe freezing, and the steady cold of January was much better for young wood and buds than a higher and more variable temperature. The spring has not been quite so favorable; still we can perceive but little injury done by freezing and thawing.

Looking over our plantation, we observe that the strawberries have come through almost entirely unscathed. The Agriculturists have suffered slightly; the rest show scarcely a print of the footsteps of the



Frost King. So also the raspberries, blackberries and grapes, all seem to have passed through remarkably well.

Not so, however, in other parts. The West experienced a cold snap about the middle of March, which destroyed the canes of the New Rochelle, Kittatinny, and Wilson blackberry, and injured the raspberries and strawberries. In the southwest, it struck the fruit in blossom, and destroyed them. Upon the whole, we are convinced that the western portion of the State of New York, within twenty to thirty miles of Lake Ontario, is as good a fruit region as our country contains. Every year's experience but confirms the impression which we formed, some nine years since, from a pretty thorough examination of the Western prairies, that they are not well adapted to the growth of fruit. The changes in temperature are too sudden and violent, the extremes are too great, and so it happens that hardly a year passes without the loss of more or less of the leading fruit.

### LANDSCAPE GARDENING.

EXTRACT FROM A LECTURE DELIVERED TO LADIES AT THE TRACY FEMALE INSTITUTE, ROCHESTER, N. Y., APRIL 11, 1867.

BY WILLIAM WEBSTER.

TASTEFUL gardening properly belongs to the Ladies. It is their peculiar province; they are the arbiters of taste, and it is to them that we must look up to as the patrons and promoters of this delightful occupation. You are aware that to display a correct and becoming taste in the embellishment of our gardens—it matters but little about the size, whether it be on the eighth part of an acre, or on ten acres, the principle is the same. Seeing then, that the size of the garden is but of small account providing true taste is exhibited, what is to hinder the ladies from taking hold of this subject in earnest, for you all know what weight the force of example carries with it. A few enthusiastic ladies will accomplish more through their zeal and example than hundreds of theorists.

Let me present to your imagination some of the delights to be derived from even a small garden. Here is one of only a quarter of an acre in extent, with a beautiful lawn for the ground work; interspersed with elegant flowering shrubs and graceful winding walks. Embroidered on this carpet of grass are beautiful flowers set in beds of chaste and elegant design, in which the different varieties of Verbena, Geranium, and other choice bedding plants, vie in color with the Dahlia and the Rose in their numberless tints. Here is the classic fountain from which the water gushes forth pure and translucent as crystal, sparkling in the sunlight like a shower of the brightest diamonds. Also beautiful Roses and other odoriferous flowering plants in all their richness of color and wealth of perfume, scattered around with a liberal hand, and masses of Violets, Heliotrope and Mignonette, which by their fragrance attract thither the delicate humming bird and ever busy bee, to draw nectar from their cups, and revel in their sweets.

Rustic seats and arbors embosomed in green, invite

the languid to repose; while vases of beautiful design are rendered conspicuous by the beauty of the flowers which hang so gracefully down their sides. Have I overdrawn the picture? By no means. The scene may be familiar to many of you, and I do hope the day is not remote when every town and village throughout our whole country can boast of any number of just such landscapes as the one I now present to your imagination.

### OUR KANSAS LETTER—No. 5.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY A. M. BURNS, MANHATTAN, KANSAS.

MESSRS. EDS.:—Your readers are familiar with the mode of cultivating the grape in the Northern, Eastern, and many of the Western States. I have thought that a brief notice of the manner in which the grape has been successfully cultivated in the "Far West," latitude,  $39^{\circ} 13'$ —longitude,  $96^{\circ} 45'$ —might not be uninteresting to some of your readers, particularly as THE FARMER is a national journal, and no doubt many of your young readers who are now laboring for the wages of a common workman, will find their way to this region, and under the homestead law, become the owners of 160 acres of as fertile land as the heart of man can desire, paying nothing for it, except officers' fees, which will amount to about \$15, and in the course of time, if not immediately, become the owners of extensive vineyards. This region offers great inducements to emigrants. There is plenty of land along the route of the Pacific Railroad, (which is completed sixty miles further West,) open to settlement under the homestead law, and as good "grape land" as can elsewhere be found. I need not speak of it as a stock-raising and agricultural region, it being well known as such. The great drouth of 1860, when our State was in its infancy, and thousands of people who came here without means that summer had to accept or call for aid from the Eastern States, has, I find from letters, created the impression that Kansas is too dry to produce grain, &c. A more erroneous impression could not exist. Thousands of bushels of wheat have been shipped east this winter from this region by the Pacific Railroad.

But I commenced to tell you how we have grown grape vines as an experiment for ten years past. I had spent many years in a law office, until ill health drove me out of it. I found myself in the spring of 1856, on a claim in the valley of the Big Blue River. I knew nothing about the cultivation of the grape. The first work I read was written by Josiah Salter, Esq., of Rochester. It was an excellent little work, but it created a desire to read the opinions about and directions of others. Now to plant the vine, I found that all were of the opinion that the soil must be trenched. Some advocated one foot and a half, others two or three feet—the deeper the better, said they. But I had planted a number of vines of different varieties on the river bottom, which was cleared of its timber, and also on the sides of prairie bluffs, before reading of the necessity of digging the ground two or three feet, and

some of them were two years old when planted, and had been planted two years, and from these authors I learned that my vines were too old to be taken up and re-planted, and then followed Mr. Salter's plan of layering grape vines to produce roots. I was successful, and that too from vines that were planted in soil that had been stirred about half a foot. It is true that a portion of the soil was quite loose. As soon as my layers were ready to plant, I had the borders ready, which were dug two feet, and bones placed in the bottom of the holes. The only mildew I ever saw, was from these same vines. It is true, there was not much of it, but it was mildew, while I have never seen any mildew on vines that were planted in soil prepared only a foot deep, and some of them planted the same spring that the prairie sod was broken.

In the meantime I was trying to obtain all the information attainable about growing the grape. Our forests along the river bottoms were perfect thickets of vines. Some of them were six inches in diameter, others again only a quarter of an inch. I observed that the roots ran along on the surface soil, nature furnishing an annual mulch in the shape of autumn leaves. I also noticed that these same vines lose immense crops of fruit, and the foliage was as verdant as any that had fallen under my observation. Our authors told us that unless the ground was trenched eighteen inches or two feet, that the vines would not live long. As to the number of years the vine will live when planted shallow, I cannot say, further than that they have lived ten years, and in a healthy condition—no rot or mildew appearing; while the vines I planted in soil prepared according to the directions given in the books, showed mildew. I might also mention that I grafted a frost grape vine about an inch thick, which was growing in very rich land at the base of a hill, with a Delaware scion, which has shown yellow leaves every year after the first. A great deal of soil has washed down from the hill, and by digging around it, I find the roots several feet below the surface.

Now, you will not understand me as becoming the special advocate of the shallow preparation of the soil. In fact, I am in *status quo*, if I may be allowed the expression. I am giving facts, which it is hoped will call forth comments in connection with the experience of others upon this subject. I have no doubt but that many others like myself, would like the opinion of some of your experienced correspondents. It is a very important matter, as the cultivation of the grape is becoming one of the great industrial pursuits of the people in many sections of the United States. Hoping others will be heard from, I will suggest or rather ask, If the deep preparation and high manuring of our soil may not to some extent, contribute to the disease of the grape? May not the vine, in sending down its roots deep into the soil, receive more moisture than it can digest for further circulation, and prevent the oxygen that we read about, from being thrown off, which makes the healthy leaves? Some say if the roots course near the surface that in dry weather the vine will cease to grow. This can be prevented by mulching; but may it not be necessary for it to stop grow-

ing at a certain season of the year, in order to give the sun a chance to produce grape sugar? Or, must the vine be growing healthily during this necessary process of nature?

We all know that young vines before they have time to send down their fibrous roots to a great depth, are healthy; no sign of disease. At least their leaves are verdant. This fact has brought forth Dr. Schroeder's new system of cultivating the grape. I know that some will say it is expensive to plant vines every ten years (providing they live no longer,) but I reply, the expense is not as great as the trenching of the ground would be, and it is hard to tell how much longer the vines will live. I may be called an innovator on the established rules of "Fatherland;" if so, your columns are doubtless open to criticism. It is such information that makes agricultural journals valuable.

### ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS.

In order to prevent broken and confused outlines, shrubs of nearly the same size should be placed in proximity to each other; and those having some resemblance in general appearance of natural affinity will group better together than those which are entirely dissimilar. The center of a large bed should be occupied by the taller shrubs, and those of the darkest and heaviest foliage; and if there are any which are planted for their showy or red berries, they will appear finest in winter by placing them around the bed, with evergreens in the center or rear.

*Shrubs of Small Size.*—The Tree Peony, with its varieties, *Deutzia gracilis*, *Mahonia*, *Hypericum kalmianum* and *Ceanothus Americanus*. These do not grow usually more than two or three feet high.

*Shrubs of Medium Size.*—The spiræas, of which there are several handsome species, among which is the *Prunifolia*, *Hypericifolia*, *Lanceolata*, *Tomentosa*, *Bella* and *Sorbifolia*; *Clethra Alnifolia*; the Flowering Currants, red and yellow; *Mezereon*, *Double Dwarf Almond*, *Kalmia latifolia*, *Rhododendron Catawbiense*, *Oak-leaved Hydrangea*, the common green-house *Hydrangea*, *Deutzia scabra*, *Forsythia*, *Weigela*, *Euonymus* or *Burning Bush*, *Japan Quince*, *Japan Globe Flower*, *Sweet-scented shrub*; *Dwarf horse-chestnut*, *Shrubby Hibiscus*, known also by the erroneous name of *Althæa Frutex*; the *Azaleas*, of which there are several beautiful sorts; and last, and not least, the hardy strong-growing *Roses*.

*Shrubs of Large Size, sometimes passing into Small Trees.*—Chinese White *Magnolia*, *Soulanges Purple Magnolia*, *Purple Dwarf Magnolia*, *Philadelphus grandiflorus*, the *Siberian* and *Persian Lilacs*; *Tartarian Honeysuckles*, including the red, white and striped varieties; *Rose Acacia*, *Silver-bell Tree*, *Cornelian Cherry*, *White Fringe Tree*, *Snow-ball*, *Purple Fringe*, *Laburnum*, *Judas Tree* or *Red Bud*, and *Cornus florida* or *Dog-wood*.

*Climbing Shrubs or Creepers.*—*Virginia Creeper* or *Five-finger*, *Aristolochia* or *pipe-wort*; *Trumpet Creeper*, the common and the large-flowered; the *Climbing Honeysuckles*, including the *Scarlet Trumpet*, *Yellow Trumpet*, and *Woodbine*; the *Prairie Roses* and *Chinese Wistaria*.—*Cultivator & Coun. Gent.*

## Ladies' Department.

### HOUSEHOLD CARES---No. 4.

"Now my dear," said Tom., coming in on Christmas evening, after depositing a rather heavy load upon the hall table, "let us have tea, and the children all to bed, and then we will see what I have brought you—yes, you, my dear, for a Christmas present. I should have put it in your stocking, in the usual way, but that it would not go into the aforesaid stocking; and secondly, because I rather think you will need assistance in the process of unpacking."

"Why, Tom.," I said, "What can it be? Do tell me; I am quite impatient."

"Now, my dear," said Tom., in his usual cool way, "show yourself superior to the general class of your sex, curb your curiosity, enjoy your tea, and then—well, I might as well tell first as last, for you would never guess—a knitting machine."

"Why Tom., my dear, you are very good to get me such a present. But what do I want with such a thing?"

"My dear," said Tom., "You know how I dislike to see you always knitting—knit, knit, knitting—till I am tired of seeing you. Now, I propose that in some out of the way corner of the nursery, store-room, or garret, you set up this family arrangement—do your knitting in private, and devote your leisure evening moments to me, my dear."

"Why Tom.," I said, "I can talk and knit too."

"Oh! certainly you can—in this fashion."

"Tom."—a pause, one, two, three—Tom.—one, two, three—Mrs. B. was here this afternoon, Tom, and she was telling me—one, two, three, four"—

"Well, wait a minute till I count a little—one, two, three."

"Oh! Tom.," I said, laughing, "it was foolish, but I had no idea that it vexed you so much."

"It did not annoy me much," said Tom., seriously, "but I think with so many boys to knit and sew for, if you can have anything that will relieve you somewhat of your arduous care, you should have it."

"Thank you, Tom.," I said, feeling a very sensible pleasure in my heart at his thoughtfulness. I presume if I can manage it, I shall find it very useful in knitting the children's stockings at least."

The fact was I did not thank my husband as much as I should have done had I known then as now, something of the capacities of the machine; but having committed it to the care of an unmarried sister who lives with me, and helps a good deal with the sewing, &c., and she being quite expert at all mechanical arrangements, am delighted with it, for the children never, even in muddy weather, get short of stockings. Leggings are always ready in colors to match their dresses; snow shoes, hoods and mittens, all come, new and elegant, from the machine, and now I am ready to say to my husband: "Tom, my dear, that was indeed an appropriate Christian present of yours."

I had for a long time been thinking what an excellent

plan it would be for city people to bottle milk. Can it, boil it, and hermetically seal it as you do fruit. Buy milk in the country at four, five, or even six cents per quart; in that way securing good, wholesome, fresh country milk for your children. You need not break the bottles, or spoil the lids, thereby making a clean profit of one-half."

"What an idea," said Tom., "it won't keep."

"Why not, my dear?"

"Of course it would not; bottled milk indeed!"

"Well, I am sure if you can give me no better reason than that, I shall try it; but I acknowledge that though I am almost certain that it will keep, I think it just possible that it will not."

"Dear me," says grandmama, adjusting her spectacles, and then raising her head high enough to peep at me under them—a way she has when particularly struck with anything: "What a grand thing it would be for travelers—they need not take cows across the ocean, and how refreshing in a desert; but don't tell on it child; just keep it to yourself, and may be you can make money by getting it patented."

"Oh! grandmama, I don't care for that. Everybody will be welcome to my experiment, if it is good for anything."

So I bottled ten quarts of milk in good faith, having very little doubt that it would be a great success; but alas! one week from the morning on which I stored away my bottles, Tom, having occasion to go into the cellar returned with the unpleasant information to me, that my bottled milk was becoming decidedly strong.

"Did I not tell you, my dear, that it would not keep?"

"And why," said I, getting rather vexed.

"As I told you before, my dear, I don't know why, but it certainly stands to reason."

And so my great experiment had to be all thrown away, for the bottles emitted a very unpleasant odor, and even the chickens did not appear to relish it.

And now, Messrs. Editors, can any of your readers tell me why that milk would not keep?

AUNT ROSA.

### FASHION.

SHORT dresses, with petticoats to match, have gradually worked their way into society, and the circle so small at first, now embraces the whole fashionable world.

The upper skirt or dress is usually scalloped and bound in velvet. Points, if preferred, are fashionable. The petticoat in all cases, should be quite plain around the bottom. Of course handsome boots will be in demand.

With short dresses the tilting hoops make their exit, and small—extremely small, are the only thing allowable for street wear.

The long, trailing, gored dresses, which are indispensable for an evening indoor costume, require a trailing hoop skirt, which has been introduced expressly for them.

Short waists and belts are still prominent, while the

chignon has a decidedly upward tendency, being perched almost on the top of the head, the higher the more fashionable.

Bonnets smaller than ever. Velvet is much in vogue for trimming, as also are velvet flowers, and a new feature is feather flowers. Black silk hats should be trimmed with jet and lace only, allowing a single flower for the face. Jet beads are still the rage. Garnet beads have a pleasant effect on a dress to match. Black and self colors are preferable for short dresses, although small plaids and stripes are pretty.

Shawls are extremely unbecoming on short dresses, and will not be allowed by the stylish.

The petticoat for a short dress should be made either of the same material, or a band of some material as good may be arranged to the dress, but simulating a petticoat. For the less fashionable and married, or more elderly ladies, small hoops with the dresses looped up, is allowable, and in fact, far more becoming.

### DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

**MAKING BUTTER IN COLD WEATHER.**—*Messrs. Eds.*—My wife and many of our neighbors, have been much troubled to obtain butter from cream in cold weather, though they warmed the milk at different periods before churning. After churning for hours, the butter would not separate. A neighbor told us of the following method:—At the time of straining the milk, put in and stir up, a spoonful of sour milk which may be kept in a bowl for the purpose, and set the milk in a moderately warm room, and let it stand without further care till it is ready to be skimmed. When ready to churn, warm the cream to the proper temperature. Since adopting this method we have not churned over half an hour, and oftentimes less, to bring the butter. Several others have the same experience. By this method the cream rises sooner, the butter is much better, and more is obtained than when you have to churn so long. If milk is wanted for other purposes than making butter, it can be set by itself as the sour milk put in would injure it for such purposes.—*P., Parma, N. Y.*

Have any of our readers had any experience in regard to the above; if so, we shall be glad to hear from them the result.—*Eds.*

**TOILET SOAP.**—To 4 quarts slacked lime, add 2 pounds sal soda. Dissolve the soda in two gallons of soft water. Then mix in the lime, and stir it occasionally for one hour. Then let it settle; pour off the clear liquor, then add two pounds of clean grease. Boil until all is dissolved, then pour it off into some vessel to cool, and cut into such shape as suits the fancy. You can flavor this soap with anything you desire. This soap will make the hands soft, and prevent them from cracking, and is far better and cheaper than any toilet soap that can be bought at the stores. Try it.—*W. D. D., Spencer, O.*

Contributed by Mrs. E. A. C., Fabius, N. Y.

**DELICIOUS BREAKFAST CAKE.**—One quart of sweet milk, two eggs, a small teaspoonful of salt, and one pint of sifted corn meal. No more nor less. Bake

forty minutes, in a quick oven. It will take an hour if baked in a slow oven.

**STEAMED INDIAN PUDDING.**—One quart of sour milk, one teaspoonful of soda, Indian meal sufficient to make a thinnish batter. Steam three hours, and serve with sweetened cream. A handful of ripe cherries or currants is quite an addition. Dried fruit of any kind will answer. Add a little salt. This pudding should be steamed invariably over boiling meat.

**STEAMED CORN BREAD.**—Four boiling water over two quarts of Indian meal, enough to just wet it; when cooled a little, add one pint of sour milk, half a cup of molasses, one teaspoonful of soda, one pint of graham flour, and salt to suit the taste. Mix well, put the mixture into a two-quart basin, after it has been covered, steam it three or four hours. This bread can be warmed very soon by replacing it in the steamer for ten or fifteen minutes. If preferred, a half pint of sweet milk, and a half pint of yeast can be used instead of the sour milk and soda.

**GREEN FOR COTTON.**—One pound of fustic, two ounces of logwood, and one ounce of blue vitriol, will color four or five pounds of goods. Boil the logwood and fustic until the strength is out, then put in the vitriol, mix well, and put in the goods. Let them remain until the desired shade is obtained. Wring out and rinse in strong soap suds.

**YELLOW FOR COTTON.**—Dissolve two ounces of sugar of lead in two quarts of soft water. Dissolve one ounce of the bichromate of potash in a separate vessel, and dip the goods, one piece at a time, into the sugar of lead, and then into the bichromate of potash. Dry, rinse in clean water, and it is done.

If an orange color is desired, dip into weak lime water. The several dyes should be as hot as the hand can bear.

**PINK FOR WOOLEN OR COTTON.**—For three pounds of goods, one gallon of soft water, or enough to cover the goods. Steep two ounces of cochineal in the water for two hours, keeping it warm; when the strength of the cochineal is abstracted, add one ounce of cream of tartar, wet the goods, in clean water, wring them dry, and put into the dye. Bring it to a scalding heat, stir and air until it is done. It will require but a few minutes to color. When dry rinse in weak suds.

**CORN BREAD.**—Take two quarts of corn meal, with a pint of bread sponge, and water enough to wet it. Mix in half a pint of wheat flour and a tablespoonful of salt. Let it rise, and knead well second time. Bake an hour and a half.

**ANOTHER.**—Take two quarts Indian meal, one tablespoonful of lard, one pint of hot water. Mix the lard in water; stir it well, that it may get heated thoroughly, and add half a pint of cold water. When the mixture is cool enough, add two well-beaten eggs, and two tablespoonsful of home-made yeast. Bake one hour in a moderately heated oven. If for breakfast, make over night.

**STILL ANOTHER.**—One pint of corn meal, one pint of sour milk or buttermilk, two eggs well beaten, and a tablespoonful of melted butter. Dissolve a teaspoonful of soda in some of the milk and add it the last thing. Sweet milk can be used, but then two spoonsful of cream-tartar must be mixed with the meal.

## Editor's Table.

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### The American Farmer for 1866.

We have on hand bound volumes of *THE FARMER* for 1866, with index complete, which we will send to any address, post paid, for \$1.25. Every reader of *THE FARMER* who has not got it, should send for it at once. It is full of practical suggestions, and the experience of many correspondents, and is worth more than the price to any farmer or horticulturist.

### American Pomological Society.

WHEREAS, the meeting of this national association was to have been convened last September, and whereas, this meeting was postponed to the present year, therefore, the undersigned give notice that its Eleventh Session will commence in the City of St. Louis, Mo., on Wednesday, September 11, at 11 o'clock, at Mercantile Library Hall, and will continue several days. All horticultural, pomological, agricultural, and other kindred institutions in the United States and British Provinces, are invited to send delegations as large as they

may deem expedient: and all other persons interested in the cultivation of fruits, are invited to be present, and take seats in the Convention.

And now that the rainbow of peace has again spanned the arch of our Union; now that our Southern brethren, after a painful separation of years, are again to be united with us in full fellowship and communion; now that our meeting is to be held for the first time on the "Father of Waters," in the Great West—we invite all the States and Territories to be present by delegation, that the amicable and social relations which have heretofore existed between the members of the Society, may be fostered and perpetuated, and the result of its deliberations, so beneficial to the country at large, be generally and widely diffused.

Among the prominent subjects which will come before the Society at this session, will be that of the revision of the Society's Catalogue of Fruits. The special committee appointed for this purpose are now, with the various State and local committees, actively engaged in collecting such information as will aid in determining what varieties are best adapted to the different sections and districts of our country; and this information, in the form of reports, will be submitted to the action of the Convention. In compliance with a resolution passed at the last session of the Society, the several State pomological and horticultural associations are requested to compile lists for their own States or districts, and forward them, at as early day as possible, to P. Barry, of Rochester, N. Y., Chairman of the Committee on the Revision of the Catalogue.

Members and delegates are requested to contribute specimens of the fruits of their respective districts, and to communicate in regard to them whatever may aid in promoting the objects of the Society and the science of American pomology; and as the fruits of the South and Southwest will then have attained their size, it is especially desirable that a grand display from these sections be made.

Each contributor is requested to come prepared with a complete list of his collection, and to present the same with his fruits, that a report of all the varieties entered may be submitted to the meeting as soon as practicable.

All persons desirous of becoming members can remit the admission fee to Thomas P. James, Esq., Treasurer, Philadelphia, who will furnish them with Transactions of the Society. Life membership, \$10; biennial, \$2.

Packages of fruits, with the name of the contributor, may be addressed as follows: "American Pomological Society," care of C. M. Saxton, corner Fifth and Walnut Streets, St. Louis, Mo.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, President.

JAMES VICK, Secretary.

OMISSION.—*Eds. Farmer*.—In the description of plan of farm house published in your April number, it should have been mentioned that the cellar wall was five feet above the surface, making the height of the building from the ground to the eaves twenty-seven feet. A dwelling-house, forty feet square should be about thirty feet high from the ground to top of plate.—G. D. C.

### Notes on the Weather, from March 15th to April 16, 1867.

THE last half of March, 30.6° was colder than the general average, by 3.1-2°, and the mean temperature of the month, 29.4°, was nearly 3° below the average for 31 years. The month gave us much raw and uncomfortable weather. The lowest temperature in each half was only 10°, and the last half the hottest noon, 51°, and hottest day, 41.7°, was on the last day of the month. Some snow storms, considerable wind, and very little clear weather, fell to our section.

The water fallen in the month was only 2.06 inches—a little below the average.

On the banks of Newfoundland numerous icebergs appeared about the 29th, some of them of very respectable size. In the month of March, snow, two or three inches deep, fell in Ireland; unusual and very uncomfortable there.

APRIL began with pretty warm days, and the half closed with quite warm weather. The heat of the noon of the 4th, was 70°, and also of the 14th; but of the 15th, the noon was 71°, and the day, 62.3°, the hottest. The general average of this half was 41.3°, or one and one-tenth degree below the mean, 42.5°, of the present, which must then be called rather warm. The coldest mean of this half was 35.2°, in 1841, and the hottest, 53.°, in 1844, so that the weather has occurred much warmer than the present half. Nearly clear days have exceeded the usual number, and so also the clear nights have been numerous. The fortnight has been very pleasant for the season.

Some snow and more rain has given us 1.56 inch of water,—about the usual quantity. The influence of the late rains and warmth has started grass rapidly, and the early blossoms begin to show themselves. The leaves begin to burst their buds, and the singing birds have come.

As the temperature of Lake Ontario is for twenty or more miles in the midst of it about the coldest, or only four or five degrees above the freezing point, the wind from that direction, even if they do not come from the snow forests of Canada, must reach us very much cooled, and give us the raw winds of spring so far. On the south side of that lake for a hundred miles east and west these winds can not be escaped. We need not wonder how they come to be so cold and chilly.

GOOD PENS.—Some time ago we received from Messrs. Adams & Co., Boston, Mass., samples of their Golden Pens, which after trial proved so far superior to any we had previously used that we at once sent for a box, and take pleasure in recommending them to our readers as far excelling any we have ever tried. They last with us four times the length of ordinary pens, and afterwards are just the thing for writing wrappers. If they have any regard to their own interests, they will make them of less durability, for if they all wear as well as those we have, there will be no need of any other pens, as these will undoubtedly rule the market, and one box last a life time.

ANNUAL REGISTER of Rural Affairs for 1867, for sale at this office. Price 30 cents, by mail, postage paid.

### Inquiries and Answers.

EDS. FARMER:—Can you or any of your correspondents, give me any information about a destructive potato slug or snail, (not bug.) A small patch of the Early Sebecs obtained abroad last season, was very much injured by the same. Any information on the above will be thankfully received.—D. R. P., Bethany, N. Y.

Will our esteemed correspondent, "G. E. B." answer the above?—Eds.

MESSRS. EDS.:—There is a garden mouse in our part of the country that eats the bark from around the foot of the apple trees, which causes the tree to die. It is done in the winter season, while the snow is on the ground. I would like to know of a preventive or a destroyer. Will some one give the information through your magazine?—G. A. K., Ottawa County, Mich.

The following may prove effectual. Get strong brown wrapping paper, spread on gas tar with a brush, tie it around the tree, *tar outwards*, close to the ground. Be sure to keep the tar from contact with the tree.

SUBSOILING.—Eds. Farmer:—I would suggest some topics for discussion in the pages of THE FARMER. The subject I desire to present before the minds of the people for consideration and discussion, is on the relevant benefits of subsoiling and subsoil plows. Can the agriculturist by this method of cultivation, remedy the natural and artificial defects that land is more or less subject to, and restore it to a high state of cultivation, or can he not? Next, what form of a subsoil plow is most adapted to the purpose? That is, a plow of such a form that it will keep clean, perform its work to suit the farmer, and require a light draught to draw it. Where can it be purchased? &c.—W. B., Penn.

WEBSTER'S NEW AMERICAN STYLE OF FLOWER GARDENS.—In all the arrangements of flowers in a garden, the main object with every person of taste, is to adopt such a system as will produce the most harmonious results. The harmony of colors is a subject which we frequently hear discussed, but seldom see carried out in a garden. In this new American style, the harmony of colors is a subject which is not only well considered, but a scientific arrangement of the flowers is apparent throughout; indeed it is upon this that the whole system is based. The concentrated rays of light as seen through the prism, are known as prismatic or primary colors, viz.: red, yellow, and blue, consequently all others are shades or compounds of these. This can be easily explained if any one will take the trouble to mix any two of the primary colors, they can produce another, and that of almost any shade according to the proportions used—thus by substituting white for yellow in the American style all the different shades of red, white, and blue, may be carried out (*ad infinitum*) and at the same time the most harmonious combination may result therefrom. \*

No invention is destined to exert a more salutary influence in the household than the Lamb Family Knitting Machine. Now our wives and daughters may devote hours usually spent in knitting to the cultivation of those graces which tend so largely to make our homes what they should be. \*

### New York State Fair.

It is now announced that the next Annual Fair of the New York State Agricultural Society will take place at the city of Buffalo, from the 1st to the 4th of October. Ten years have elapsed since the last autumn meeting of the Society at that place; and during the interval the city has made rapid growth, its connections with the country have been increased, and the very fact that such an interval has passed, can hardly fail to stimulate interest in the coming exhibition—to secure more numerous exhibitors and a larger attendance of the public. Our prizes are now open to competition from all localities. This was not the case ten years ago, and it will serve to draw new competitors both from Canada and Ohio. It is hoped that the Secretary of the Treasury will accede to regulations by which stock or articles coming from the British Provinces may have the duties refunded on return; and the appointment of Kingston for the holding of the Provincial Society's Show, carries the latter to such a distance from a large part of Canada West; that we may expect the more assistance from that source at our own.

Supposing thus, that Ohio and Canada West send us some of their best stock, our breeders must be more fully represented than has occasionally been the case of late, if they do not wish the laurels of the State carried over the border. With such cattle, horses, sheep and swine as there are in the hands of the farmers of New York, this would hardly be a creditable result to go on record; and yet we cannot help putting in a timely warning that no other result can be anticipated, if their backwardness should afford the opportunity.

However this may be, we shall all extend a hearty welcome, both to competitors and spectators from beyond our own limits. If they can beat us on our own ground, we deserve defeat, and shall hope to get some useful lessons from it. The citizens of Buffalo appear to be wide awake, and express great determination that nothing shall be wanting on their part to render the Exhibition a success. They labor under a disadvantage in having no permanent structures which can be used for the purpose; and we shall again have to do our best in temporary buildings—for the first time in several years. But the influence of the Fair, we trust, may be such as shall lead to the purchase and completion of grounds which can hereafter be made ready for the State Society at a smaller outlay than will be required now.—*Country Gentleman.*

### Literary Notices, &c.

**THE DIAMOND DICKENS.** The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club. By Charles Dickens. With Original Illustrations by S. Eytinge, Jr. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Price \$1.50, illustrated; or, \$1.25 for the plain edition.

This is the first number of the Diamond edition of the complete works of Charles Dickens, published by the above well known firm. The distinctness of the printing, and the character of the illustrations, which are designed specially for this edition, the convenient size for a library, and the taste with which the work is

got up, will make it a valuable series. The low price at which it is offered, puts it within the reach of all who desire to own the writings of the greatest living novelist. The *Atlantic Monthly* says of them:—

"These 'Diamond' volumes are of necessity printed in a small type, but from the extreme delicacy in the cutting of the type, and the exceeding care taken to secure clearness in printing, they are far more easily read than many books in much larger letter. And their cheapness commends them to all in these days of high prices. The volumes of Dickens, as they are issued month by month, will doubtless find their way to many households where the inimitable novelist has hitherto been a stranger."

The *Boston Journal* comments as follows:—

"We cannot but regard such a publication as that of the 'Diamond Pickwick,' by Ticknor & Fields, as constituting an era in American book-making. Before its appearance, whoever wanted to buy that standard product of Dickens' genius, had to choose between a 'cheap edition' (though not so cheap after all, as this Diamond edition) of inferior workmanship, and a single larger and cumbersome copy, or one in two volumes, both of the latter quite costly. But in this new edition we have a handy little book for the fireside or window, tastefully bound, of 465 double column pages, the type small, to be sure, but very clear and readable, the paper good and slightly tinted, an excellent engraved head of Dickens prefacing the title page, and sixteen original illustrations by one of our best artists; the whole offered at \$1.50, or, without the illustrations, at \$1.25. At any time this would have been regarded as a decided achievement in book-making, but, in the midst of the present prices, it is certainly as surprising as it is welcome."

The complete work will be issued in twelve or thirteen volumes, one each month, and will be sent by mail, postage paid on receipt of price.

**SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS A YEAR.** A Wife's Effort at Living under High Prices. 1 Vol., 16 mo. Price \$1. Ticknor & Fields, Boston, Mass.

A domestic tale in which an American housekeeper, in a lucid manner, gives successful plans and interesting experiences. Many valuable receipts are given during the relation, thus combining the novel and cook book.

### DEMOREST'S MONTHLY.

The season may be late in presenting its smiling countenance, but not so Demorest's Monthly. It is on hand for May, exuberant with novelties, brilliant ideas, fashions, in their multitudinous forms, illustrations, poetry, music, braid patterns, dress patterns, architecture, and a host of other valuable matter useful and indispensable to every household. \$3 per year. W. Jennings Demorest, 473 Broadway, N. Y.

**THE AMERICAN FRUIT CULTURIST,** by John J. Thomas. William Wood & Co., publishers, 61 Walker Street, New York. Price \$3.

No living author has contributed so much to a popular knowledge of American fruit culture, as the veteran pomologist, John J. Thomas. Many years have passed since we studied, with much interest, and profit his first "American Fruit Culturist," and now we gladly welcome his latest, which embodies in addition to the valuable matter contained in his first work, the discoveries and experiences of the last twenty years. We think we do not exaggerate when we say that the present is the most reliable and complete treatise of the fruits of America yet published.

**WOODWARD'S RECORD OF HORTICULTURE** for 1866. Edited by A. S. Fuller, Author of the *Forest Tree and Grape Culturist*, New York: G. E. & F. W. Woodward. Price \$1.

This work commences with a review of the horticultural books that have been published during the year 1866, and proceeds with notices of the horticultural magazines, at the same time mentioning the agricultural press as faithful laborers and co-workers in the great field of knowledge in relation to the soil. The review of grape culture in the fifth chapter, cannot but prove of great value to all vineyardists and amateurs, giving a description of the leading varieties, with a list of those likely to prove of real value. This chapter is followed with a review of small fruits, Raspberries, Strawberries, Gooseberries, Cranberries, closing with a description of the different ornamental trees and those most desirable of cultivation.

We are agreeably surprised after a hasty glance over this work just issued, to find so much valuable new and interesting matter condensed into the space of 124 pages. It is the intention of the publishers to issue one volume yearly, and the object is to show the actual state of horticulture for each year, giving the names and descriptions of all new and valuable sorts, and discarding all worthless varieties. The public will owe the author and publishers a debt of gratitude for getting out this valuable work, which should be in the hands of every horticulturist in the country. The low price at which it is offered, puts it within the reach of every farmer and horticulturist. For sale at this office, or by addressing the publishers.

#### THE HEAVENLY CHERUBS.

This beautiful engraving has been received from the publisher of *The Little Corporal*. It will be sent to any person sending \$3 and three names to that first class child's paper. A. S. Sewell, publisher, Chicago, Ill.

**THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER** (Monthly.) R. P. Eaton & Co., Boston, Mass.

The publication of this valuable monthly is resumed. It is in pamphlet form suitable for binding, on good paper filled with interesting matter.

#### TRANSACTIONS AMERICAN INSTITUTE.

We are indebted to Mr. Chambers, of the American Institute, New York, for a series of these volumes which abound in matter of a useful and practical character, and are valuable acquisitions to our library.

#### CATALOGUES, &C., RECEIVED.

From Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, Catalogue of Green House and Hot House Plants, Select Bedding Plants, Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, &c. For sale at the Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.

T. C. Andrews, Moorestown, N. J. Catalogue of Small Fruits for spring of 1866.

D. Landreth & Son, Philadelphia. Rural Register and Almanac for 1867.

— Sheppard & Co., 214 Pearl Street, New York. Descriptive Catalogue of Vegetable Seeds for the Field and Garden.

J. S. Collins, Moorestown, N. J. Catalogue of new and best varieties of Strawberries, Raspberries, and other Small Fruits.

G. E. and F. W. Woodward, New York. The Illustrated Horticultural Almanac for 1867. Sent to any address by mail for 10 cents.

From James M. Matteson, Jacksonville, N. Y., descriptive catalogue of fruit and ornamental trees for sale at the Jacksonville Nurseries.

W. W. Chenery, Belmont, Mass. Catalogue of stock at the Highland Stock Farm.

E. D. and D. B. Reynolds, North Bridgewater, Mass. Circular and price list of Eagle Seed Sower.

J. W. Bailey & Co., Plattsburg, N. Y. Catalogue and price list of grape vines for sale at the Adirondac Grape Nursery Vineyard.

W. A. Flanders & Co., Shelby, O. Circular and price list of Italian bees sent free to any address.

J. W. Manning, Reading, Mass. Catalogue of Reading Nursery.

J. J. H. Gregory, Marblehead, Mass. Retail Catalogue of Garden Vegetable Seeds.

E. W. Sylvester, Lyons, N. Y. Wholesale Catalogue of Lyons' Nurseries.

#### MUSIC.

We have received a copy of the "Black Crook Waltz," by Thomas Baker. It is a composition of rare merit, and from its great popularity in New York, we bespeak for it an immense sale everywhere. Price 50 cents.

Also "Sweet Nelly," a song written and composed by J. E. Perring. The words and melody of this song are very fine. Price 30 cents.

Both of the above pieces are destined to achieve a wide-spread reputation among all lovers of good music. Published by William A. Pond & Co., New York, from whom they can be obtained.

#### Our Exchanges.

We have received a large number of new agricultural and horticultural papers commencing with this year, all of them filled with valuable information devoted to agriculture and horticulture. Want of space forbids an extended notice, but below we give the names of those now on our table.

*Monthly Advertiser* for the Field, the Garden, and the Workshop. Monthly, by D. Heston, Publisher, Philadelphia. Price 30 cents a year.

*The Practical Farmer of the Middle States*. By Paschall Morris, Philadelphia. Published monthly, at \$1 a year.

*The Southern Planter* starts anew with January of the present year, after a long suspended intercourse with its old friends and patrons. It is published in pamphlet form, of 64 pages, by C. B. Williams, Publisher and proprietor, Richmond, Va. Price \$3 a year.

*The New England Homestead*, devoted to the farm, orchard, garden, and the fireside. Published monthly by H. M. Burt & Co., Northampton, Mass., at 50 cts. per annum.

*The Farmers' Advertiser*, semi-monthly, by Plant & Bros., St. Louis, Mo. Price \$2 a year.

*The Western Ruralist*, monthly. Edited by Lawrence Young, and published by Raymond Lynch, Louisville, Ky., at \$1 a year.

*The Farm and Fireside*, a journal of agriculture, 11¢



erature, and the arts. Published weekly by S. S. Foss, Philadelphia. Price \$2 per annum.

*The Southern Farmer*, devoted to agriculture, stock raising, &c. Price \$2 a year. Published by M. W. Phillips & Co., Memphis, Tenn.

In the last number of *THE FARMER*, we inserted an advertisement of Osage Orange seed, from one August Schmidt, London, O. From letters received from him and the style of his advertisement, we were led to believe that he was an honorable man; but we have since learned that he has "skedaddled," and would caution our readers against addressing or remitting monies to him. We endeavor at all times to guard our columns against deceptive advertisements of all kinds, and so far believe that none but this one has been inserted from irresponsible persons. We shall never hesitate to inform our readers of those who fail to perform what they advertise, as soon as we are cognizant of the facts in the case.

### THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, April 23, 1867.

**FLOUR**—White wheat, \$17.00@17.50. Red, \$15.00@16.25.  
**GRAIN**—White wheat, 320@340c. Red, 310@315c. Corn, 125c.  
 Barley, \$1.25. Oats, 70@75c. Rye, 150c.  
**HOPS**—60@65c.  
**WOOL**—40@50c.  
**HAY**—\$12@12.50.  
**SHEEP SKINS**—Prime, \$1.00@1.25.  
**PROVISIONS**—Hams, 12@14c. Lard, 12@13c. Butter, 20@25c. Eggs, 18. Cheese, 17@19c. Potatoes, 65@75c. Dried apples, 10@11c.

### New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, April 22.

**BEEF CATTLE**—Are in excellent request, and fat ones sell quickly at high figures. The supply of such beef cattle as are really fit for good beef is not equal to the requirements of the trade. The number of first quality of cattle is always small at this season of the year, and heaves of this stamp are now selling for 16c@17c ¢ ¢ ¢, net weight. Extras, of which there was not more than half a dozen for the week, sell for 18c@18½c ¢ ¢ ¢. The lowest grades of beef cattle sell for 12c@13c ¢ ¢ ¢, net weight. Common cattle, 14c@15c ¢ ¢ ¢.

A great many very poor animals are offered at every market. During a few weeks past, there has been a good supply of old stags, poor oxen, and thin, poverty-stricken steers, all of which were utterly unfit for slaughtering, except for dog's meat. Such animals sell exceedingly slow, and at low figures. The number of beef cattle received last week at all the yards is 4,808, which is less than usual, for the weekly supply.

**MILCH COWS**—Drovers have but little encouragement to bring milch cows to the New York markets, as the demand is so indifferent, yet there appeared to be a little more activity than usual in the cow market during the past week. Some of the cow brokers stated that there is an improvement in prices of about \$5 ¢ ¢ head. The number of really choice milkers is exceedingly few. Yet, there were some beautiful, fine-looking cows at some of the markets.

A few cows were reported the past week as sold at \$180 ¢ ¢ head. A small number brought \$100 each, and others were sold for \$40@50 ¢ ¢ head, and some for \$50@90 each. Good milkers are in fair request, as many people are now purposing to purchase a good cow for supplying milk and cream for their own families.

The number of cows received at all the yards for the requirements of the trade is about 90 ¢ ¢ week. On some weeks, the number is much less than that.

**VEAL CALVES**—The demand for really fat calves is active; and such animals sell readily for 12c@13c ¢ ¢ ¢, live, gross weight. Common calves were sold for about 10c@11c ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight, during the past week. There are large numbers of miserably poor calves sold in market, that are not worth more than 7c@8c ¢ ¢ ¢. A desperate effort is made to maintain the high prices for this kind of meat. Calves that are "hog-dressed," by removing the entrails and cutting off the head before their carcasses are brought to market, sell a few cents ¢ ¢ ¢ higher than those that are weighed and sold alive. "Hog-dressed" calves have sold during the week for about 13c@15c ¢ ¢ ¢.

The number of "boles" offered for sale is unusually small, as drovers and farmers fear exceedingly the vigilant Sanitary Police, who are looking out for such immature meat.

**MUTTON SHEEP**—Transactions at the sheep markets are moderate, on account of the large number of extremely thin and poor sheep.

Fat sheep sell readily at 9c@10c ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight. A very few of the extra-fattened sheep were sold for 10½c ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight. Perhaps about one-third of the droves were sold as high as 8c@9c ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight. There are so many inferior sheep that after the best lots have been disposed of, business is exceedingly dull, and drovers find it difficult to dispose of the remnants of their flocks from which the best ones have been selected and removed. The price for good sheep is so firm that dealers are calculating on more or less advance from the present figures. There are not fat sheep enough offered to supply the requirements of the trade. Butchers dislike to purchase poor, half-starved sheep. They prefer to pay two or three cents ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight, more for sheep that will make superior mutton, than to take up with ordinary sheep at low figures.

Sheared sheep are now arriving in large numbers from Illinois and other Western States; and those droves that are only in fair condition sell quickly, at remunerating prices.

The number of sheep received at all the yards during the past week is only 9,592, which is below the weekly average for the entire year.

**SWINE**—There is not much activity in the swine market at the present time; and the quality of the animals received is rather inferior.

The number of swine received at all the hog yards on 4th street, and at Communipaw, for the week is 16,998. During the few past weeks the swine market has been rather unsteady. The yards were well cleared of the offerings. On Monday, the 22d, the market opened at 7c@7½c ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight, for the best Western corn-fed hogs. The same quality, dressed, brought 9½c ¢ ¢ ¢. Fair to good swine were sold for 6c@7c ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight, or 8½c@9½c ¢ ¢ ¢ dressed. Common and rough hogs, live weight, brought 6c@7c ¢ ¢ ¢; dressed, the same quality, were sold for 8½c@9c ¢ ¢ ¢. Distillery-fed porkers were sold for 7c@8½c ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight, or 9½c@10c ¢ ¢ ¢, dressed. Market pigs sold readily at 8½c ¢ ¢ ¢, live weight; dressed, same quality were worth 9c@9½c ¢ ¢ ¢.

There is an untold amount of quarrelling among dealers in swine, as they find it difficult to obtain the price of fat hogs for those that are not fit to slaughter.

**BUTTER**—First-rate butter sells readily at a fair price; but there is such an untold amount of miserable grease, that the butter market, in general, is extremely dull. The following figures will furnish a correct idea of the condition of the butter market:

Fresh pails ¢ ¢ ¢	32c@35c
Half-firkin tubs ¢ ¢ ¢	30c@32c
Welsh tubs, ¢ ¢ ¢	27c@30c
OLD CROP BUTTER.	
Fine to extra State dairies, ¢ ¢ ¢	25c@28c
Good to fine State dairies, ¢ ¢ ¢	22c@25c
Good to fine Welsh tubs, ¢ ¢ ¢	20c@22c
Common to fair State, ¢ ¢ ¢	18c@20c

The demand for old butter has been more active during the past week at the low prices for Eastern and export demand, as the stock of really good old now on the market is very limited, although many dairies are still held in the country. Now and then a very small supply for this period of the season, and receipts are readily taken at quotations, with some retail sales of fresh pails, at 40c for extra selections.

Large quantities of butter and cheese have been firmly held at both city and country, and wealth and credit freely expended to sustain fictitious values, all of which has resulted in a wreck of the old crop on the opening of the new, and also of forcing the conviction on the vast dairy interest of this country that a new crop of prices must be current that will enable all classes to be consumers, and that the period for high prices is passed.

**CHEESE**—There has been an active demand for cheese of superior quality, although the market closed with a downward tendency. Fair lots sell readily at the following prices:

Factory Dairies, 1st quality, State, ¢ ¢ ¢	17c@18c
Factory Dairies, 2d quality, State, ¢ ¢ ¢	16c@17c
Factory Dairies, Western, ¢ ¢ ¢	16c@17c
Farm Dairies, 1st quality, State, ¢ ¢ ¢	17c@18c
Farm Dairies, 2d quality, State, ¢ ¢ ¢	16c@17c
Farm Dairies, Western, ¢ ¢ ¢	15c@16c

Owing to the shortness of the English crop the last season the cheese trade has enjoyed a temporary advantage over butter, but notwithstanding the heavy and constant export demand the old crop is closing out in this country and England at lower prices, and with a still downward tendency. The increase of factories for next season is computed at nearly one-third over last season, which, with a fair season for grass, will give a product unprecedented in amount.

**WHEAT AND FLOUR**—Since my last report, there has been a good degree of activity in the wheat trade, and with a little advance on former rates, and with a very light stock of choice spring or winter, holders are firm at the highest rates. The city and local millers are the principal buyers, although several lots have changed hands on speculation. The demand for White California has been active the week past at \$3.30@3.40 per bushel. Our market is so poorly supplied with winter wheat, that the demand is sufficient to take the cargoes as they arrive. Barley is firmer for bonded. Rye has again improved in value, but is lower at the close. Oats are held at higher rates. For Indian corn the demand has been good, and being much of it on speculation prices have fluctuated somewhat, closing tamely at yesterday's market.

The following figures will give a fair idea of the state of the market at this time of writing:—

Superfine flour, 35 bbl.	\$10.20	@11.50
Extra State	11.50	@13.00
Extra Genesee	13.85	@16.00
Sap. to extra Southern	12.00	@17.45
Rye flour	7.75	@8.50
Corn Meal	5.40	@6.25
White Wheat, 35 bushel	8.10	@8.40
Red and Amb. Wheat, 35 bu	9.40	@9.35
Mixed Western Corn	1.29½	@1.32½
Yellow Corn	1.26	@1.33
White Corn	1.28	@1.33
Rye	1.47	@1.65
Barley	90	@1.23
Oats	71	@80

With a gradual decrease in the stock of choice western flour, and the certainty of no material increase before another harvest, the trade for some time past have been confident of improving prices—this is being realized, and our quotations show a material advance on all kinds, but more particularly on the better grades. For California brands the inquiry has increased, and the article (as was predicted) has become a favorite.

**DRIED FRUIT**—Of all kinds sells quickly at the following figures:

Apples, State, 35 lb	11a12
Apples, Western, 35 lb	9a10
Apples, Southern, 35 lb	7a 8
Peaches, Southern, peeled, 35 lb	10a12
Peaches, unpeeled, halves, 35 lb	15a16
Peaches, unpeeled, quarters, 35 lb	18a14
Cherries, New Pitted, per lb	46a50
Blackberries, per lb	23a24
Raspberries, per lb	50a53
Fruits, per lb	33a34

**APPLES AND CRANBERRIES**—The following figures represent the prices for these kinds of fruit:

Apples, selected, per bbl.	\$6.00a\$ 7.00
Apples, Western, per bbl	8.50a 4.50
Apples, Prime Winter, per bbl.	5.50a 6.00
Cranberries, Eastern, per bbl	18.00a 20.00
Cranberries, Jersey, per bbl	12.00a 15.00

**WOOL**—Transactions in wool have been moderate since my last report and prices have fluctuated more or less. Choice wools sell readily, while common grades sell slowly, with a downward tendency in prices. Ordinary grades of domestic fleeces sell at 50a54c for native and one-quarter Merino, 53a57c, for one-half and three-quarters do., 58a64c for full-blood Merinos, and 16a70c for Saxony fleeces; 30a40c for No. 1 Pulled, 40a50c for superfine do., and 50a55c for extra do.; 22a27c for common un-washed California; 30a40c for fine do.; 15a22c for Texas, and American combing at 53a55c.

**POULTRY**—Fat poultry sells for enormous prices. The following figures represent the usual prices for poultry at the present writing:

Turkeys, per lb	24c@25c
Chickens, do.	21c@22c
Ducks, per pair	\$2.30@3.25
Ducks, per pair	1.50@1.75

**EGGS**—The demand is good, and prices generally are very firm.

Jersey, extra brands, per dozen	26c@26½c
State and Penn., do	25c@26c
Ordinary Western, do.	24c@25c
Western by Express, do.	25c@26c
Canada, do.	24c@25c

**BEANS**—Prime beans are scarce and sell at high figures, and are moderately quick, and prices firm at the following rates:

Prime Beans, Kidneys, per bushel	\$3.50@3.60
Prime Beans, Marrows, new per bushel	3.00@3.50
Prime Beans, Mediums, new, per bushel	2.80@3.25

Prime Beans, Mixed Parcels, per bushel	1.50@2.00
Peas, Canada, per bushel	1.35@1.40

**POTATOES**—Have been selling tolerably well, at firm prices. But there is now a downward tendency. The following figures represent the prices now; but before the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER receive my report, the price of potatoes will be much less than I have quoted.

Peachblows, 35 bbl	\$2.75@3.00
Mercers, 35 bbl	2.50 @ 3.50
Jackson Whites, 35 bbl	2.50 @ 2.75
Buckeyes, 35 bbl	2.00 @ 2.50
Dyckman, 35 bbl	3.00 @ 4.00
Chillian Reds, new, 35 bbl	2.25 @ 2.50
Sweet Potatoes, 35 bbl	4.00 @ 5.00

### Special Notices.

**A CARD TO INVALIDS.**—A clergyman, while residing in South America as a missionary, discovered a safe and simple remedy for the cure of nervous weakness, early decay, diseases of the urinary and seminal organs, and the whole train of disorders brought on by baneful and vicious habits. Great numbers have been cured by this noble remedy. Prompted by a desire to benefit the afflicted and unfortunate, I will send the recipe for preparing and using this medicine, in a sealed envelope, to any one who needs it, free of charge. Address, Joseph T. Inman, Station D, Bible House, New York City.

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The voicing of the Reeds of the Choral Organs is confided to a scientific mechanic, (himself an experienced organist), whose ear has become so accustomed to the PIPE ORGAN tone that he is not satisfied with the reedy quality found in other Reed instruments; and by a series of scientific experiments continued through a number of years, he has succeeded in producing a tone free from that reedy harshness so unpleasant, and given to the tone of the Choral Organ the round, pure, musical quality of the pipe organ.

THE GRADUATED SWELL, patented by themselves, and used only in the CHORAL ORGAN, is one of the greatest improvements yet made in the swell of a Reed instrument. This swell is not a LOUD PEDAL ONLY, but, as its name indicates, a SWELL, by which you glide from the Pianissimo to the Fortissimo at will, or instantly change from one to the other.

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The following are among the

### TESTIMONIALS.

From Prof. H. C. Timm, the eminent Pianist.

NEW YORK, October 1, 1866.

Having carefully examined your Choral Organs, I take great pleasure in recommending them to those desirous of purchasing a really good instrument. The tone is equal to the best I ever heard, being devoid of that reediness so objectionable generally in instruments of that kind.

The swell, managed by the feet, is also an improvement by which the most charming effects may be produced.

In addition to an agreeable touch, I think their pleasing exterior leaves nothing to be desired. Wishing you all success, I remain yours most respectfully,

H. C. TIMM.

From Prof. Isley, Teacher of Music in the Public Schools, Newark, N. J.

NEWARK, September 29, 1866.

I have used your Choral Organs, both in my house and in some of the Public Schools in this city, where I teach music, and I am happy to say that they have given, and are giving, entire satisfaction. The tone is very full and fine, the action good, and the effects produced by the graduated swell are greater and finer than I have ever heard in any other reed instrument.

Yours truly, F. I. ISLEY.

NEW YORK, September 22, 1866.

I have examined your Choral Organs, and am delighted with them beyond expression. All the light and shade of musical expression that can be obtained in a reed instrument, is combined in the Choral Organs. I am particularly pleased with the working of the graduated swell. It is decidedly one of the greatest improvements in Reed Organs.

Yours, very respectfully, G. F. ISLEY.

Director of Music in Rev. Dr. Crosby's Church, Fourth Ave.

WE FULLY CONCUR IN THE ABOVE OPINION OF MR. G. F. ISLEY:

J. B. BARTLETT,

Director of Music in Rev. Mr. Gause's Church, 23d Street.

S. F. POWERS,

Director of Music in Rev. Mr. Kittredge's Church.

H. A. BARTLETT,

Organist in Presbyterian Church, 54th Street.

From Mrs. Christopher, formerly Miss Marion McGregor, the accomplished Organist of the Broadway Tabernacle Church, N. Y.

JANUARY 5, 1867.

Your Choral Organ affords me real enjoyment. I find none of the harshness so common to reed instruments, but a mellowness and fullness of tone, which combined with its variety of resource and delicacy of touch, make it an excellent substitute for the pipe organ. The Diapason indeed reminds me of an open Diapason, particularly as a solo stop.

The graduated swell deserves particular commendation. It differs in a marked degree from anything I have ever heard, and is very effective.

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5 Octave Double Set Reeds, Two Stops, full paneled case.....	175.00
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MOTHERS' JOURNAL,  
500 Broadway, New York.



T. A. F. R. N. Y., E. 1866.

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Postmasters, and all friends of agricultural improvement are respectfully solicited to obtain and forward subscriptions.

Address,

**JOHN TURNER,**

**Publisher and Proprietor,**

**Rochester, N. Y.**

# THE AMERICAN FARMER

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VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JUNE, 1867.

No 6.



I.

June, June! O glorious June!  
Break on our vision and gladden us soon,  
With censers of perfume, and garlands of flowers,  
To fill all the daylight and wreath all the hours;  
Till the morning, the night, and the sunshiny noon  
Shall tell of thy presence, O beautiful June!

II.

June, June! O long coming June!  
Our hearts are in waiting, our nerves are in tune.  
We feel in each pulse of the life-giving blood;  
We see in the leaves and the slow-bursting bud,  
A herald which tells us we're granted the boon;  
Then hasten to meet us, O beautiful June.

III.

June, June! O blossoming June!  
Your air is all zephyr, your birds all in tune;  
You skimmer you're beauties like rose petals down,  
Till they glint your fair tresses like gems in a crown,  
Thy glories so transient, may fade all too soon,  
But they leave a sweet memory, O rose-tinted June!

Belfast, Me. G. A. B.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

DURING April, and up to the middle of May, we have had in this section nothing but a continuation of wet weather, and so far the prospect has been anything but favorable to work on the farm; the result is that sowing and planting will be crowded together. This shows the importance and advantage of being prepared to do the work in the most expeditious and thorough manner as soon as the state of the weather will allow. The great value of underdraining has been clearly demonstrated during this protracted spell of bad weather, such soils being in a short time freed from the overplus of water, and in a condition to work—while adjoining *undrained* land has been so saturated that considerable time has been lost in waiting for the evaporation of the great amount of water fallen this spring.

It will be well to look carefully over the "work" for the farm and garden in the two last numbers, and finish at once any portion that we have been unable to attend to. Many hints and suggestions therein contained, can yet be put in practice, and should meet with prompt attention before the season of harvest comes upon us.

**HORSES**—should receive extra care and attention at this time. See to it that they are not overworked, and that they are fed at regular hours. Keep them well groomed, and take every care of them.

**SHEARING** should be done by an expert hand. It will be to advantage and profit to pay a good man extra pay for doing the work well, than to hire a poor workman and give him only his board.

**PIGS** require to be kept in good condition. If turned out in clover fields, ring them first. Pork will probably command a higher price next winter than last, and therefore it will pay to raise all we can, and have a supply to meet the demand.

**BEES**.—Of course every faithful bee master has before this thoroughly renovated his apiary. Surplus boxes should be supplied to all hives at once, with a spacious communication with the main hive. This is the swarming month, therefore much attention is required. See that your hives are in readiness to receive the disloyal portion of the family, for they come forth like a thief in the night. No one knows the day nor the hour. It is very rare that a swarm will abscond when a hive is given them immediately on alighting. Hives should be kept in a cool place, and thoroughly washed with salt and water. Sprinkle the bees well with cold water before disturbing them; also while they are entering the hive. Remove at once to their permanent location. Now cover the hive with green grass, or bows wet well with cold water. Few bees will fly to the woods with this treatment, but will commence work in boxes much earlier by placing pieces of nice comb in the top of the boxes. Artificial swarming is much preferable to natural, but is very little practiced. The operation requires some skill, which every apiarian should understand.



**FENCES.**—Keep a sharp look-out to the fences that cattle do not break into the grain fields. A broken rail or weak spot may tempt unruly animals to wander, and do a great deal of damage in a short time. In going around the farm, watch the fences closely, and repair any spot that needs it at the time, which will save much annoyance.

**IMPLEMENTS** for harvest work should be got ready in good season. In purchasing buy none but the best. A poor article will be dear at any price.

**ROOTS.**—Turnips, ruta bagas, carrots, parsnips, &c., should be sown extensively to feed to stock.

**WEEDS** will now appear on all sides, and should meet with sudden destruction. Hoes and cultivators should be kept going to destroy these pests.

### THE BEAUTIFUL IN THE FARMER'S LIFE.

THOSE inexperienced in agricultural pursuits are liable to fall into the error of supposing that there is little in the life of the farmer to develop his esthetic nature. That he is subjected to an unvarying round of drudging toil, in sunshine and storm, in dust, and dirt, and mud, as the state of the weather develops those various conditions of the soil. They think that this life of unending toil has a tendency to sear over the finer feelings of his nature, rendering him coarse, stupid, vulgar, narrow, niggard—unfit to be the associate of the genteel, the educated, and the refined.

Ideality, or a capacity for appreciating the beautiful, is a sentiment implanted in the human soul by its Creator, and like all other sentiments or faculties, is much larger, naturally in some than in others, and is much more rapidly developed under favorable, than under unfavorable influences. The question then is—are the influences which surround the farmer in his every-day life, such as are calculated to develop his love of the *beautiful*, or otherwise?

It can scarcely be doubted that *nature*, in her varying and wonderful works, operates more powerfully in drawing forth and exercising the love of the beautiful, than art, in her works. If this is admitted, what class of men, are brought by their vocations into more intimate relations with Nature, than farmers? From the time in early spring, when the first robin or bluejay sings his glad songs of welcome to returning spring—when the peeper's mournful notes are first heard in the distant marsh, when the earliest flowers open their beautiful petals almost in the border of receding snow banks, on through the season when the air is laden with the perfume, and the eye is almost oppressed with the varied beauties of blossoming flowers, shrubs, ornamental and fruit-bearing trees, and the emerald hue

of the fresh grass and growing grains, covers the earth instead of the white mantle of winter—into the seasons of development and maturity, when the golden colored grain in one field, contrasts with the green corn in another, and all with the varied tints of the different species of forest trees; and so on through the sadder beauties of the declining year, and the sterner sublimities of winter, the life of the farmer who has the love of beauty in his soul, is a succession of experiences, tending to gratify, and develop that sentiment.

Farmers are less *expressive* of their emotions than they who live more in society, and have their social and conversational faculties more cultivated, but they are not devoid of strong emotions, an ardent love of the beautiful in nature, and a quiet, perennial enjoyment of those beauties, much more real and profound than that of the townsman who spends a few weeks in summer amid rural scenes, at first going into raptures over them, and wondering at the stupidity of those farmers who do not indulge in similar expressions, but soon growing weary of the dullness of country life, and longing for the excitements of the city.

Much of the truest poetry ever written, was inspired amid rural scenes—some, while engaged in the employments of the farm. Burns composed some of his sweetest songs at the plow handle, and wrote them down when he retired from labor at night. We have known those who have grown gray in the labors of the farm, whose dress was coarse, whose manners were rough and uncouth, the grasp of whose horny, toil-hardened hand though warm and cordial, was awkward, and whose presence was repulsive to a man of culture and refinement, and yet whose souls were ever alive to the beauties of nature. Although for threescore years and more they had greeted the return of the successive seasons, they never grew weary of their beauties, but hailed them as an unfailing source of joy, and of gratitude to the Author of Nature.

### SORGHUM—No. 3.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "L. F." SOMERSET, N. J.

THE seed having been planted, the crop will require no more care for a month, or until the plants have attained a growth of two or three inches. As the seed is a long time in coming up, and the young plants are longer still in getting fairly started in their growth, and withal are hardly distinguishable from the "summer-grass" which generally starts with them, many become discouraged at this period, and plow up their ground—when by the exercise of a little care and patience, they might secure a good crop, and be well repaid for their trouble. This particular time, when the plants are

just beginning to grow, is *the time* that requires the most care and trouble, as the plants, if carefully attended until they begin to grow, will take care of themselves afterwards.

As soon as the plants are two or three inches high, the patch should be carefully but thoroughly cleansed of all weeds, grass, &c., that may have made their appearance. This is best done by running a light furrow as close as possible to the row, throwing the dirt away from it, and leaving it so for a few days, until the rows shall have been hoed and cleaned, and then throwing it back, taking care not to cover up the plants. The rows should be hoed, and all grass and weeds taken out by hand. Where the cane has come up very thick, some of it may be removed now, but the regular thinning should be left awhile longer.

After the ground is well cleaned and mellowed, a light dressing of manure on the hills, (unless it was applied at the time of planting,) will be found very beneficial. Make a mixture of ashes, plaster, hen manure, poudrette, or other like substances, and apply a gill or *less*, according to its strength, to each hill. Make it very fine, and apply directly around the plants.

The thinning should be done when the plants are four to six inches in height. When the hills are three or four feet apart, five or six stalks may be left in a hill. It is much preferable, however, to have two or three stalks every foot, (rows four feet apart,) as the stalks have a better chance of growing large and coarse, than when they are crowded by having a large number in a hill. If it is desired to raise a large quantity on a small piece of ground, make the rows as close as they can be conveniently worked, and have only single stalks at a distance of five or six inches in the row, and then keep them suckered. In thinning, only the best plants should be left, removing the small and sickly ones.

*Suckering* is an operation that is generally dispensed with in large fields, but in small patches it may be done with great advantage to the crop, if the grower has time to attend to it. It consists in removing the side shoots or suckers which spring up from the base of the stalk. Although these suckers grow almost as large as the main stalk, it is better to have them cut out, as the crop will grow and ripen more uniformly without them. After the thinning and suckering, the crop needs only an occasional plowing until it is three feet high, after which the plow should not touch it. It is then "laid by," and requires no further care until harvesting, at which time I will continue these articles.

It is said a crop of sweet corn is more valuable, acre for acre, for feeding animals, and quality of meal for domestic purposes, than Indian corn.

## HOP CULTURE.

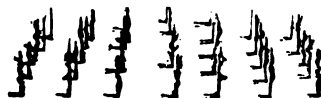
WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY F. W. COLLINS.



Male and Female Hop Vine.

Hops should properly be put into the ground in the fall—some time in October or November, in order to be ready for an early start in the spring. When this is done, if the after treatment is what it should be, a fair, paying crop, may be harvested the ensuing fall. When planted in good season in the spring, in April or May, a partial crop may still be expected in the fall, if the vines are staked, and the soil is kept mellow and free from weeds. This condition is best attained by cultivating some low, hoed crop, between the hills the first season, during which the vines are very generally allowed to run at random over the ground, and are bruised and torn with the cultivator when any cultivation is attempted, and choked with weeds when utterly neglected.

Vines trained in this manner invariably fail to reach the maturity and perfection which a more consistent cultivation would insure, and this difference is not merely noticeable during the first season. Very much depends, even in relation to the quantity and quality of the crop harvested in the following year, upon the treatment bestowed on the young plants. Indeed, the difference between hops under good cultivation, and those grown in the usual manner the first season, is so strikingly apparent as to make them resemble different varieties. Although it is well to stake the yard, and culti-



Staked Hop Yard.

vate a crop the first season, all sowed crop

should be avoided. Hoed crops will necessitate good cultivation to the crops while paying their own way. Only low, hoed crops, however, should be selected. Beans and potatoes are better adapted to this use than corn. Corn grows so high as to hinder the beneficial action of the atmosphere upon the young vine, absorbing the ammonia, and with it all the salutary effect which might otherwise be brought to bear upon the vines. If corn is used, it should not be placed nearer than three feet to the hops, and then it is more objectionable than the hoed crops.

The stakes used should be seven feet in height after setting, the same that are used permanently in the yard. Twine will not be required the first season. The twine should be trained over the stake as represented in the accompanying illustration.



Twined Stakes.

The male or staminate plant represented at the left of our first illustration, is sometimes planted promiscuously with the female or pistillate plants, which are cultivated for the fruit, but more generally the male hills are set at every eighth or tenth hill. In the horizontal hop yard the female plants are all trained low on stakes, while the male hills alone run on long poles.

Baskets are more convenient than bins. Male Hop. for picking hops, when the vines are not cut. Those shown in our last illustration, hold five bushels, grain measure, but are four-bushel hop



Hop Basket.

baskets. These baskets are manufactured in Rochester, at \$2.50 per basket, of unpeeled willow.

THE floods have caused great damage the present season to the sugar lands of Louisiana, many of the best plantations being completely ruined by the overflow of water.

### A DISCURSIVE LETTER.

EDS. AM. FARMER:—In your issue for May, a correspondent, "D. R. P." of Bethany, N. Y., makes this inquiry:

"Can you or any of your correspondents give me any information about a destructive potato slug or snail—not bug. A small patch of the Early Sebecs obtained abroad the past season was very much injured by the same. Any information will be thankfully received."

You call upon me to answer this. Now, if I had not an every day experience in the receipt of just such questions, I should despair of even attempting to answer from such loose data. Did the insect injure the leaf, stalk, blossom, or tuber? You say it was "not a bug." Are you sure it was a "slug or snail"? Might it not have been a beetle in the larval state. Of course, we cannot be expected to tell what the insect was without a better description, but we avail ourselves of the Yankee privilege, and guess it was the insect scientifically termed *Leptus trilineata*, or, Three-Lined Beetle, and which we, of "down East" call "our potato bug," to distinguish it from the Western "potato bug" or *Doryphora 10-lineata*, popularly called the ten-lined spearman. If we are correct in our guess the insect in its larval or "worm" state, was found feeding on the leaves of the potato. They are about a quarter of an inch long, oval, largest in the middle; of a dirty, yellowish color, with brownish black head and feet. As they feed, they cover themselves with their voidings, which gives them a filthy appearance. After eating a short time they enter the ground, change to pupae, and in a few days come forth perfect insects or beetles, a quarter of an inch in length, of a yellowish buff color, with black eyes, two black spots on the thorax, and three black lines on the wing covers. Does the above description of the larval agree with your "slug"? If not, please catch some of the "varmints" next summer, put them in a box with a good supply of potato leaves, and send to my address. Perhaps with the culprit before me *in propria persona*, I may be able to identify him.

*To Keep Mice from Girdling Apple Trees.*—Tell your inquirer in the same number, who asks how to prevent mice from girdling trees in the winter, if he will tread the first snow down firmly around his young apple trees, the mice will not injure them.

*Matters in Maine.*—We are just entering upon the spring campaign. Up to this date, (May 3d,) but very little farming has been done, but now the ground is in fair condition, the frost is nearly out, and spring work, planting, sowing, and seeding will be pushed rapidly forward. The season is nearly ten days later than the average, no leaves yet, and no prospect of pasture feed for ten days more. May came in with a heavy rain storm and a violent thunder shower, clearing off cool.

**Markets.**—The produce market is quiet, and but little doing. Potatoes, 80 cents for Footes; \$1.25 for Sebecs; 65 cents for colored varieties. A large acreage will be planted to potatoes. Hay, \$20 to \$30 a ton, and very scarce. It is a general remark among farmers that hay did not "spend" well last winter. Butter, 25 to 30 cents per pound. Oats 90 cents a bushel. Apples none. Barley, \$1.10. Milch cows, \$45 to \$75. Sheep, \$5.

**State College.**—As regards the Maine State Agricultural, I can only say everything is *in statu quo*. A new board of trustees, seven in number, have been appointed by the Governor, and the appointments do not give satisfaction, as at least six out of the seven have never done anything to prove their ability to perform the duties of the position.

**Railroads.**—Our State is alive and excited upon the question of railroad communication, and routes are projected in all parts of the State, which if constructed will do much towards opening up and developing our resources and encouraging our various mechanical, agricultural and manufacturing interests.

**A New Fertilizer.**—The farmers of this county are making preparations to use a new fertilizer or plaster this spring. It is made of a mica slate stone found common here, and ground in the mills similar to common plaster. It was successfully used in several cases last year. Speculators need not all apply at once.

Belknap, Me.

G. E. B.

### SOUTH AMERICAN DUCKS NOT MENTIONED IN POULTRY BOOKS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY C. N. BEMENT.

**Patagonian Duck.**—One of the most singular birds is the Steamer-Duck, as it is called by the sailors. Before steamboats were in use, this bird was denominated from its swiftness in swimming on the surface of the water, the Race Horse; the name frequently occurs in Cook's and Byron's, and other voyages. It is a gigantic duck—the largest of the ocean ducks. It has the lobated hind toe, legs placed far backward, and the characteristics and peculiarity of this bird is the shortness and remarkably small size of the wings, which not having sufficient power to raise the body, serve only to propel it along through the water, and are used like paddles of a steam vessel. Aided by these, and its strong, webbed feet, it moves with astonishing velocity. It would be no exaggeration to state its speed at from twelve to fifteen miles an hour. The peculiar form of the wing, and the short rigid feathers which cover it, together with the power this bird possesses of swimming a considerable time under water, constitute a striking link between the genera

*Anas* and the aptenodytes. The largest found measure forty inches from the extremity of the bill to the tail, and weighed thirteen pounds. It is very difficult to kill them, on account of their wariness and thick coat of feathers, which is impenetrable to anything smaller than buck shot.

**Plata Ducks.**—This appears to be a variety of the Musk family, natives of the tropical regions of South America, and takes its name from the river La Plata. "The original stock of these new and superb species," says A. M. Halsted, "was brought from the river of that name, about five years ago by a sea captain, who bought them of the natives for the table, but noticing their great size, and fine table qualities, he kept two trios, and brought them to the port of New York. A custom house officer, the son of an old miller, saw them on the vessel and got possession of them. I saw them on his place, and bought one trio, and got control of the balance for a term of years. They are of the Musk species, still they are very distinct from the common Muscovy. A Muscovy drake rarely weighs over twelve pounds, while a full-grown Plata will rarely weigh as little. Another distinctive peculiarity: I have kept them in the same yard with the Aylesbury, penned them in the same coop, and never have a cross. The drakes never notice other breeds when they have their own to mate with.

"The Muscovy will roost on trees—the Plata always on the ground. The Muscovy drake will *fly* all his lifetime—the Plata never, after six or eight months old. There is also a peculiarity about the eggs; they require five weeks to hatch, and the eggs of the young birds are not so sure to hatch as those of old birds. They are the best layers we have seen. Our first year's stock was two drakes and four ducks. The ducks commenced laying in March; three of them were set in May, and brought off broods. The fourth also wanted to set, but was taken up. The total number of eggs was a little over 240.

"For culinary purposes they are unequalled—flesh being juicy and tender, with none of that strong, rank taste, peculiar to most of the larger kinds.

"They frequently attain a weight of twenty-five to thirty pounds per pair, and there have been instances of exceeding that weight. The dressed weight of young drakes has often reached sixteen pounds, and we have not a doubt but they could be made to weigh twenty pounds if fully fattened.

"For their immense size they are unusually small feeders, not eating as much as the common breeds.

"The colors of the Plata ducks are white and lead, with occasionally one marked with black."

READ, then act—page 200.

**TROUT RAISING.**

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "R. H."

EDS. FARMER:—The subject of trout breeding appears to attract the attention of some who have a favorable location for that purpose. It can not be expected that all will succeed who make the attempt. If they fail, perhaps it may be owing to the water being unfavorable to trout breeding, or the application of the water is not right. If an individual has a spring that will pass water, and will fill a hole from two to four inches, and will stand at a temperature of from 40° to 50°, one may with proper fixtures and close attention, succeed in raising trout. If he has a ravine where a dam is built across it, and flows over one acre of ground, by building a dam say six feet high, he will find the water will not remain at the temperature for trout. Part of the season the water will be too warm, and part of the season too much frozen. Nor will he be able to control the water at all times—in a freshet he may lose his fish. Those who adopt the above plan will not succeed.

With the above amount of water, two or four reservoirs, ten feet wide, fifty feet long, and one foot deep at the upper end, and four feet deep at the lower end, can be made, with a good gravel bottom. They need not be stoned up. If four reservoirs be built, the water might pass out of the upper two into the lower two. They should be secured from all depredators—even ducks and frogs. With the above fixtures one would be prepared for trout breeding. If the reservoirs are to be stocked with trout from three to six months old, all of the ponds or reservoirs may be used alike. All trout over one year old should be kept by themselves, for if put with those less than a year old, they will be devoured by the older ones. They may be fed on thick milk, almost any kind of meat—liver is their favorite food. Well attended, one thousand trout in each of the ponds can be made to weigh a pound or more in four years.

**EXEMPT FROM TAXATION.**—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that wagons, carts, and drays made to be used for farming or lumber purposes, and baggage or express wagons made for carrying freight exclusively, and not to be used as pleasure carriages, are by the act of March 2, 1867, exempt from taxation.

DIP the tips of nails in grease, and they can then easily be driven into any hard wood, where otherwise they would double and break.

French farmers say that in districts where the pigeon is the most abundant, there the wheat olds are the cleanest and the crops most prolific.

**FISH BREEDING.**

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER BY "COSMO."

ON a very large majority of all farms, and country seats of five acres and upwards, throughout New England, Canada West, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and a great deal of territory outside of these limits, some half a dozen of our best varieties of American fresh water fish may be propagated by artificial breeding at a very trifling expense, and with less trouble than raising a brood of chickens.

If we would discard from our tables one-half the meats that we are in the habit of gorging ourselves with, supplying its place with fine, fresh fish from our own preserves, at less than a quarter the expense of meat, there would be infinitely fewer dyspeptics, feeble, failing women, fewer funerals, lighter doctor's bills, and very many more hale, healthy, robust men, women, and children.

And then what a convenience, to be able anywhere in the country, remote from market, at any season of the year to command for the table a mess of fine fresh fish, direct from the water, at an average cost of less than two cents per pound. And besides this advantage, having our fish pond a fairy lake as ornamental in summer as we choose to make it; in winter a delightful private skating park for the young folks, and a source of supply of pure crystal ice for summer stores.

A small sum of money invested in a pond for breeding fish artificially, either for sale or home consumption, will pay better than any other investment in the world.

Being familiar with the habits, characteristics, and requirements of most of our American fresh water fishes best adapted to pond breeding, and also with the construction of ponds and artificial propagation, I shall have pleasure at all times when I can do so, in giving such information as I possess, either by drawings, specifications, written directions, or if within reasonable reach, personal superintendence, upon application through the publisher of THE AMERICAN FARMER.

THE far famed Shorthorn herd of Samuel Thorne of Dutchess County, has been sold to J. O. Sheldon, of Geneva, with the exception of two bulls. Forty animals were sold at the average price of \$1,000 per head.

The cattle plague has again broken out in Europe. It seems to be confined to one district in England, namely, South Holderness, Yorkshire. At one time it was thought to have entirely disappeared.

On dit, that a few radish seeds planted with melons and cucumbers, the striped bug will attack them as they prefer the radish tops and will not touch melons and cucumbers when this is done.

## OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

### COOKING FOOD FOR ANIMALS.

BY R. W. STEWART, NORTH EVANS, N. Y.

As the great business of agriculture consists principally in the raising and feeding of animals, so no inquiry can be more important than the best method of improving their food. There has been much discussion within a few years, as to the profit of cooking all food for animals. The first pregnant inquiry on this subject is, What is the effect of cooking upon food? If this question can be answered satisfactorily, then no further doubt will remain upon the subject. It is generally conceded that it renders food more easily digested, and is, so far, an advantage. But does not cooking do more than this? Does it not make that digestible, and consequently nutritious, which is not so by the ordinary action of the stomach?

#### EFFECT OF COOKING STARCHY FOOD.

Let us see what investigations have been made on this subject. Pereira says: "To render starchy substances digestible, they require to be cooked in order to break or crack the grains, for of the different lamina of which each grain consists, the outer ones are the most cohesive, and present the greatest resistance to the digestive powers of the stomach, while the internal ones are least so." "Starch," says Raspail, "is not actually nutritive to man until it has been boiled or cooked. The heat of the stomach is not sufficient to burst all the grains of the feculent mass, which is subjected to the rapid action of this organ. The stomachs of graminivorous animals and birds seem to possess, in this respect, a particular power, for they use feculent substances in a raw state. Nevertheless recent experiments prove the advantage that results from boiling the potatoes and grain, and partially altered farina which are given to them for food, for a large proportion, when given whole in the raw state, passes through the intestines perfectly unaffected, as when swallowed."

Braconnot observes "that the potatoes employed for feeding cattle should be boiled, since independently of the accidents which may arise from the use of them in the raw state, a considerable quantity of alimentary matter is lost by the use of these tubers in an unboiled state."

Johnston, in his Agricultural Chemistry, states the effect of heat upon starch thus: "When wheat flour, potato, or arrowroot and starch, is spread upon a tray and gradually heated in an oven to a temperature not exceeding 300° F., it slowly changes, acquires a yellow or brownish tint according to the

temperature employed, and becomes entirely soluble in cold water. It is changed into dextrin or gum. During the baking of bread, this conversion of starch into gum takes place to a considerable extent. Thus Vogel found that flour which contained no gum, gave when baked, a bread, of which 18 per cent, or nearly one-fifth of the whole weight, consisted of gum. Thus, one result of baking is to render the flour starch more soluble, and therefore more easily digested." He also says, "It is a property of starch of all kinds to be insoluble in cold water, but to dissolve readily in boiling water, and to thicken into a jelly or paste as it cools."

#### WHAT IS WOODY FIBER?—EFFECT OF HEAT UPON IT.

These experiments show us the effect of heat upon grain and roots. But it may be alleged that hay, straw, and coarse fodder, are so very different, that no such favorable result would follow the application of heat. Let us, then, inquire into the composition of woody fiber, the most indigestible part of any fodder. Woody fiber is composed of two parts. First, lignin, which forms the walls of the vegetable cells; and secondly, cellular fiber, (cellulose,) which fills the cells, and forms an incrustation on their walls. Cellulose has the same composition as starch, gum, and sugar, and therefore consists of C-12, H-10, O-10. Lignin is slightly different, and composed of C-12 H-8, O-8. Thus it appears that woody fiber, and cellular fiber, composing the trunks of trees and also the fiber of all coarse fodder, are but slightly different in chemical composition from starch, gum, and sugar, which compose the bulk of all our cereal grains. It is generally supposed that the stems of trees are innutritious, but such is not the fact. Pereira says: "When woody fiber is comminuted and reduced by artificial processes, it is said to form a substance analogous to the amylaceous principle and to be highly nutritious." Schubler states "that when wood is deprived of everything soluble, reduced to powder, subjected to the heat of an oven, and then ground in the manner of corn, it yields, boiled with water, a flour which forms a jelly like that of wheat starch, and when fermented with leaven makes a perfectly uniform and spongy bread." Johnston says, speaking of these experiments:—"Woody fiber may be changed into starch thus by the unaided action of heat, and the starch thus produced changed, first into gum, then into grape sugar, by the action of dilute sulphuric acid, assisted by a moderate heat? Tomlinson, in his Cyclopaedia, asserts that in Norway and Sweden sawdust is sometimes converted into bread for the people by a similar process. Thus it will be seen that heat is necessary to render the food soluble, whether it be in the form of starch or woody fiber, and that in addition acid is necessary to turn it into sugar. The gastric juice supplies this acid, and after the proper

application of heat, can dissolve woody fiber or starch, and probably convert it into sugar before it becomes nutritious. Starch is an element of respiration, and supplies animal heat, and according to Liebig, the surplus contributes to the formation of fat in animals. The heat of the animal stomach is sufficient to dissolve and appropriate to the use of the animal, a portion of the grains and woody fiber used as food, but there can be no doubt that a large percentage is wasted for the want of a higher degree of heat. Heat is the great solvent. All woody fiber will yield to steam pressure—straw to 130 pounds to the square inch—and chips of the trunks of trees to 200 pounds. This reduces it to a uniform pulpy mass, and it is highly probable that even the trunks of trees are, when so reduced, nutritious. As it is proved by the experiments mentioned, that the trunks of trees are capable of being made into nourishing bread for man, by the aid of heat as the main agent, is it not reasonable to suppose that the woody fiber of straw and coarse fodder may economically be made nutritive to our animals?

#### GREEN AND DRY FODDER.

Perhaps the reader may ask, how it happens that the natural food of animals should be so imperfect as to need cooking? The answer is, that the natural food of animals is always in a green and succulent state, and needs no preparation. Animals in their wild state crop only green food, and migrate to the south as the grass becomes dry and tough in the north. Thus cooking makes the dry fodder more nearly like the green grass. From the examination we have made into the effect of cooking food, it is evident that it must be beneficial, and practice bears out the theory.

#### EXPERIENCE OF THE WRITER.

The writer of this article has practiced cutting and steaming for a stock of from ten to fifty-five cattle and horses for more than ten years. He tried a long series of experiments to determine the effect of steaming upon hay and straw; also the quantity of bran and middlings, and corn meal, that would make wheat, oat, and barley straw equivalent to hay. He found that two bushels of steamed hay was equal to three unsteamed, and that two quarts of middlings, or one quart corn meal upon a bushel of straw, rendered it equal to the same weight of the best hay. He has found, for many years, that he can winter his stock in better condition on straw and middlings, or meal, in the proportions given, than on hay. This is a large item near a good hay market, and when straw is worth but little, or in grain regions, where little else is raised as fodder for animals.

#### COMPARATIVE VALUE OF STRAW, &c.

Let us examine the general analyses of straw and

coarse fodder as compared with hay, grain, &c. This is necessary to give us a full understanding of the subject.

#### Average composition of wheat straw and the cultivated grasses.

	(Cyc. Ag.)	(Prof. Way)
	Straw.	Hay.
Flesh-forming substances .....	2.05	10.34
Heat and fat-producing substances .....	85.06	43.80
Woody fiber .....	56.87	37.15
Mineral .....	6.02	2.66
	100.00	100.00

#### Corn fodder and bean straw.

	(J. H. Salisbury.)	(Prof. Way)
	Corn fodder.	Bean straw.
Flesh-forming matter .....	8.290	16.33
Heat and fat-producing matter .....	85.278	33.56
Woody fiber .....	50.257	25.54
Mineral matters .....	1.776	9.45
Water .....	6.276	14.71
	100.000	100.00

#### Indian corn and wheat bran.

	(Salisbury.)	
	Indian corn.	Wheat bran.
Flesh-forming matter .....	15.199	15.00
Heat-producing .....	78.586	63.00
Fat .....	8.945	6.00
Water .....	.....	15.00
	100.000	100.00

#### Oats and rye.

	(Emmons.)	(Johnston.)
	Oats.	Rye.
Flesh-forming matter .....	18.447	16.00
Heat-producing matter .....	78.376	69.00
Fat-producing matter .....	7.178	.....
Soluble phosphates .....	.....	8.06
Water .....	.....	11.94
	100.002	99.10

#### Beans and Peas.

	Beans.	Peas.
Legumin, albumen, or flesh formers .....	28.6	28.4
Starch .....	48.0	43.6
Sugar .....	0.2	2.0
Gum, &c. ....	1.5	4.0
Oil and fat .....	0.7	1.3
Husk .....	7.0	8.3
Salts and loss .....	1.0	2.0
Water .....	28.0	12.5
	100.00	100.00

The analyses of wheat straw, corn stalks, bean straw, will show at once, the large amount of nutritive matter they contain, besides that denominated woody fiber, and the woody fiber will be much of it rendered nutritious by steaming under pressure. Bean straw and wheat bran it will be seen are very rich in nitrogenous matter, and therefore will build up the muscular system of the animal. From long experience, we have found wheat bran equal, practically, to the analysis. If steamed, we regard it as valuable per weight, as corn meal. Its analysis indicates that it has more muscle-forming matter than corn. This will show the important use that farmers should make of bran, when it is to be had for the price of hay, in feeding cows and young animals. A critical examination of the analyses will show the farmer, readily, how to mix a proper food to build up all parts of the animal system.

#### PREPARING FOOD FOR STEAMING.

The feed is prepared for steaming thus: the cut straw, hay and straw, or other cut feed, sufficient to fill the steam box is measured in a square six bushel basket. It is then moistened with a water-

ing pot with two gallons of water to five bushels of feed, while it is being stirred up with a fork. Then two quarts of bran to the bushel of straw are mixed in the same manner, and a little salt added, when it is put into the steam box and cooked for an hour and a half. This feed will keep warm for two days in the coldest weather in a wooden steam box. Wetting before steaming, is of the greatest importance, and should never be omitted. We have not room in this short article to describe the different apparatus for steaming, but will say that an apparatus which will allow from 10° pressure and upwards to the square inch, is very desirable.

#### RESULTS OF COOKING.

It now remains for us to give the results of cooking the food of animals as observed by the writer:

*First.*—It renders moldy hay, straw, and corn stalks, perfectly sweet and palatable. Animals seem to relish straw taken from a stack, which has been wet and badly damaged for ordinary use, and even in any condition except "dry rot" steaming will restore its sweetness.

*Second.*—It diffuses the odor of the bran, corn meal, oil meal, carrots, or whatever is mixed with the feed through the whole mass, and thus it may cheaply be flavored to suit the animal.

*Third.*—It softens the tough fiber of the corn stalk, rye straw, and other hard material, rendering it almost like green succulent food, and easily masticated and digested by the animal.

*Fourth.*—It renders beans and peas agreeable food to horses as well as other animals, and thus enables the feeder to combine more nitrogenous food in the diet of his animals.

*Fifth.*—In enables the feeder to turn everything raised into food for his stock without lessening the value of his manure. Indeed, the manure made from steamed food, decomposes more readily, and is therefore more valuable when used in a fresh state. Manure made from steamed food is always ready for use, and is regarded by those who have used it as more valuable for the same bulk than that made from uncooked food.

*Sixth.*—We have found it to cure incipient heaves in horses, and horses having a cough for several months at pasture, have been cured in two weeks on steamed feed. It has a remarkable effect upon horses with sudden cold, and in constipation. Horses fed upon it seem much less liable to disease; in fact, in this respect it seems to have all the good qualities of grass, the natural food of animals.

*Seventh.*—It produces a marked difference in the appearance of the animal, at once causing the coat to become smooth and of a brighter color; regulates the digestion, makes the animal more contented and satisfied, enables fattening stock to eat their food with less labor, gives working animals time to eat

all that is necessary for them in the intervals of labor; and this is of much importance, especially with horses. It also enables the feeder to fatten animals in one-third less time.

*Eighth.*—It saves at least one-third of the food. We have found two bushels of cut and cooked hay to satisfy cows as well as three bushels of uncooked hay, and the manure in the case of the uncooked hay contained much more fibrous matter unutilized by the animal. This is more particularly the case with horses. The cooking of hay and straw destroys all foul and troublesome seeds.

#### OPINIONS OF AMERICAN AND ENGLISH FARMERS.

George A. Moore, at the New York State Fair discussion, 1864, says:—"I was feeding sheep and cutting for them timothy hay, millet, carrots, and feeding with bean and oatmeal. Before steaming, I found by weight, I was putting on two pounds of flesh per week. After steaming, I put on three pounds per week, and the stock eat the food cleaner, and I noticed they laid down quietly after feeding. I also experimented with sixty-four cows. Had a quantity of musty hay, which I cut and steamed. They would eat it entirely up, and seemed better satisfied with it than the sweetest unsteamed hay. Steamed food does not constipate the animal; the hair looks better. I think cutting and steaming combined, insure a gain to the feeder of at least thirty-three per cent. The manure resulting from feeding steamed food is worth double that from unsteamed food. After cows come in, steamed food increases the milk one-third."

Hon. George Geddes, in the same discussion, says: "I find if I take ten bushels of meal and wet it in cold water, and feed twenty-five hogs with it, that they eat it well; but if I take the same and cook it, it will take the same number of hogs twice as long to eat it up, and I think they fatten quite as fast in the same length of time. By cooking you double the bulk, for one measure makes two feeds."

A. B. Conger, ex-president of the New York Agricultural Society, said at same discussion: "But steaming alone is not sufficient in the preparation of the food. It must be first wet, so that if left alone ten hours it will heat. And so prepared and steamed, thirty head of stock may be kept on the same amount of food as twenty on unprepared food. The mistake made in early experiments was, that the food was not sufficiently wet before steaming."

Professor Mapes says, Transactions American Institute, 1854, page 378: "The experiment often tried, has proved that eighteen or nineteen pounds of cooked corn is equal to fifty pounds of raw corn for hog feed. Mr. Mason, of New Jersey, found that pork fed with raw grain cost twelve and a half cents per pound, and that from cooked food four and a



half cents. Cooked corn stalks are as soft and almost as nutritious as green stalks. Cattle can be fattened at about half the expense upon cooked food as upon uncooked."

S. H. Clay, of Kentucky, found by experiment that a bushel of raw corn makes 5 3-4 pounds of pork, while a bushel of cooked meal makes 17 1-2 pounds.

James Buckingham gave in *The Prairie Farmer*, an experiment with raw and cooked meal, and found that a hog fed on 1 3-4 bushels raw meal gained 19 pounds, and another fed on one bushel of cooked meal gained 22 pounds.

The Society of Shakers at Lebanon, N. Y., famous for pork raising, say, "For fattening animals, swine particularly, we consider three of cooked equal to four of raw meal."

Professor Horsfall, of England, has practiced mixing a special food for milch cows, to produce a large yield of milk of good quality, and to keep up the flesh of the cow in a full flow of milk. He says:—"My food for milch cows, after having undergone various modifications, has for two seasons consisted of rape cake five pounds, and bran two pounds for each cow, mixed with a sufficient quantity of bean straw, oat straw, and shells of oats in equal proportions, to supply them three times a day with as much as they will eat. The whole of the materials are moistened and blended together, and after being well steamed, are given to the animals in a warm state. From one to two pounds of bean meal is given to each cow per day according to the yield of milk, those in full milk getting two pounds. Bean straw, uncooked, is dry and unpalatable; by the process of steaming it becomes soft and pulpy, emits an agreeable odor, and imparts flavor to the mess. In albuminous matter, which is especially valuable for milch cows; it has nearly double the proportion contained in meadow hay. Bran undergoes great improvement in its flavor by steaming, and is improved in its convertibility as food. I have cooked or steamed food for several years, and my experience of its benefits is such, that if I were deprived of it, I could not continue to feed with satisfaction."—*Transactions New York Agricultural Society, 1866, page 224.*

Mr. Meechi, near London, has also practiced steaming straw mixed with materials similar to Prof. Horsfall. He estimates straw worth \$10 per ton to feed after steaming. His experiments have been very extensive, and the results most favorable to cooking food.

In this article we have endeavored to state in the fewest words, the principal points that bear upon this subject. Much more might have been urged, had there been room; but we trust that the array of facts is sufficient to call the attention of farmers

to this most neglected improvement, which when generally practiced, will add millions of dollars to their income.

REMARKS.—The Committee in returning the Es says received on this subject says:—"A most complete treatise on this subject might be made if all the good points of the several articles could be combined." We purpose adopting this suggestion, and intend to publish them in pamphlet form of 32 pp. Several essays have been received on this subject, all of them well written and worthy of publication. Any of our readers desiring to avail themselves of the whole series, can send on their names and address, and we will enter them in rotation as received, and forward the work as soon as published. Price 30 cents per copy.—EDS.

### PLAN OF HOG PEN.

BY MISS EVA M. COLLINS.

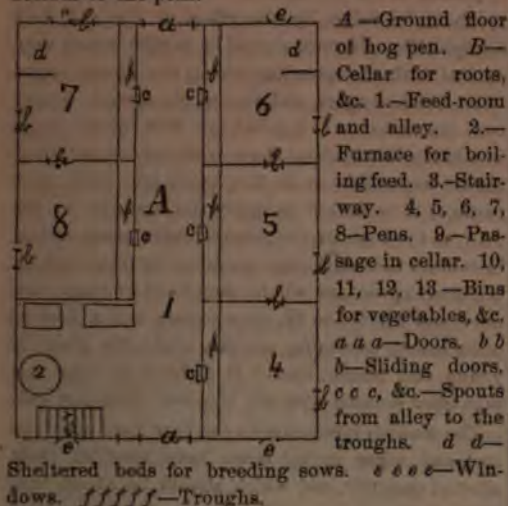
A thorough farmer may be known by his hog pen. In riding through an unfamiliar section of country, there is nothing which so surely enlightens the traveler as to the degree of civilization attained by the owners of the soil, as the appearance of this appendage, necessary in some shape to every farm yard. Where we see a piggery with one side open to the frosts and storms of winter, and the whole but a filthy mud-hole at best, the owner of that establishment may be at once set down as a man doomed by his own actions to be forever climbing up hill; forever working to disadvantage. "Hard work, and little pay" will be his constant cry. He is right! There is no other result possible from the course he is taking. He is just the man to find up-hill work in whatever direction he may turn, and will assuredly, if he founds his line of conduct in all proceedings, on the same basis with that of his treatment of pigs. His pigs needing all the food they receive to generate a supply of animal heat sufficient to support life, grow up lank and lean, and late in the fall, in place of the four or five hundred pounds of pork, which this farmer thinks he ought to receive, he finds himself the possessor of little more than the skeleton of that amount of pork, whatever may be said in regard to the relative merits of different varieties of food for pigs.

The first essential in their rearing and management, is a warm, dry, comfortable pen. The annexed illustration represents the best hog pen for its cost, for the accommodation of from fifteen to thirty hogs, we have ever seen. It is thirty feet in front, by forty deep. The ground plan is represented in Fig. 2. Under one corner of the building is a cellar fifteen feet square, for storing the grain and vegetables intended to be fed out to the hogs. The main floor



ELEVATION OF HOG PEN.

is all open together, the pens being a foot lower than that designated as feed room and alley, and are separated from that by a close partition rising three feet above the alley floor, and four above the bottom of the pens.



The partitions between the pens are also four feet in height. The floors of the pens are a few inches lower at the sliding doors, b, which communicate with the outside, and from those point are connected with a reservoir at the rear. Five or six fattening hogs can be accommodated in each pen, if necessary. The cost varies in different localities, but is not great beyond the outside building, the cost of which any master carpenter could readily compute from the design.

INTRODUCE these essays to your neighbors.

## MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF BARNYARD MANURE.

BY SAMUEL SWEENEY.

"What's the use of writing anything on that?" we hear some farmers, say, if not by words at least by practice. "Why we never give it a thought, just get it out of the stables into the barn yard, the easiest way we can through the winter, and haul it out in spring, where it will do most good."

But, friend, let us consider a little, and although we have the words of the wise man, that there is nothing new under the sun, yet we may be enabled to suggest something that may be new and of practical value to some, though considered worthless by others.

Much has been written from time to time in agricultural papers and elsewhere, on the importance of cellars to contain the liquids off roofed sheds, to protect the manure from being washed by rains, and of compost heaps, made by mixing swamp muck or other earthy substance with it regularly, as it comes out of the stables, which would be easy enough provided you had plenty on hand, that would not freeze; all of which is undoubtedly of great value where they can be had in full working order, but as not one in ten of the farmers throughout the country, either has or intends to have either one, we will confine our remarks to that which is more common, and if not quite so scientific, will at least be more generally practical.

Let us then, in the first place take a look at the stable floors. Those in most common use are either wood or earthen, and both are best according to how or where they are used. For horses, it is certainly best to have plank floors, being clean, neat, and not so liable to get pawed in holes by impatient

steeds; but for cows or sheep, an earthen floor, wherever it can be had dry enough, is of great value in preserving the liquids, as well as being much warmer for the stock. If you have plenty of wheat straw, lay a thick bed the first, and each succeeding night pile on more wherever it is needed, and clean out twice a week. Perhaps some one, more scrupulous about cleanliness, may say: "Why, I would never leave my stable uncleaned for four days;" but its advantages are obvious in absorbing the liquids and thoroughly saturating the straw and other matter that may have been used as bedding. A plank floor may answer as well, provided it can be made thoroughly air and water tight, and kept well littered with straw, and perhaps some swamp muck, loam, or other earthy matter, where it can be easily got. Horse stables should invariably be cleaned every day, not so much as regards manure-making, as to the comfort and convenience of those who attend to them, as well as of the horses themselves.

It is of great importance, and should be considered in the arrangement of all farm buildings, to have the manure from all the stables come out in the same yard. This becomes apparent from the fact that some manures are cold, while others have a heating tendency; therefore in cleaning out the stables, be careful to throw that from each separate stable or shed, not only in the same pile, but through all its parts, so that they may get mixed and ferment together. A great hindrance to good manure making in our country, is its liability to freeze entirely through, and remain so until thawed out in spring, which is usually not before a part of it ought to be on the field. This may in a great measure be obviated by keeping the dung hill well leveled, and not allowing it to accumulate in ridges. It will take a little work, it is true, but will amply repay the extra trouble, as it lies more compact, and warming up, not only resists the frost, but wastes the snow that may fall on it from time to time. The stock finding it the nicest place in the yard, make it their trampling ground, and the pigs keep rooting and working it up. In putting out manures after a heavy fall of snow, it would be well to shovel or scrape the snow away from where the manure is to be laid down, else there will be apt to be a layer of snow and of manure alternately, which would be likely to spoil the warming principle badly. By following the above system, it is quite common to see the steam rising from the pile, even in the coldest days, which would be likely, it may be supposed, to cause some scientific farmer with his head full of agricultural chemistry, to say, "But see what an amount of ammonia, and other valuable gases, you lose in that which you call steam." I don't care—I'd rather lose a little in that way, and have the manure rotting and fermenting through

the winter, than have it a hard frozen mass in spring, within two or three weeks of the time it ought to be on the soil. It would enhance the value of the manure, improve its condition, and cause it to incorporate with the soil more easily, to trench over and refine it within three weeks of the time of application, as is done in England; but the season is so short and unsettled here, as to render it almost impracticable.

It is impossible to give a rule for the application of manure that will be suitable in all cases, as every one has his own way of using it, and in most instances thinks it the best; but the root crops and corn ought certainly to have the largest share; and although a good deal has been written on the value of harrowing it, so as to mix with the soil before plowing, yet it will be found that where there is a considerable amount of half-rotted straw intermixed, it will do little else than drag along. It would be a great improvement for the first crop, if it could be hauled out early in spring, spread, and allowed to wash down through the soil some weeks previous to plowing, but if not got out till the weather becomes dry, or if applied to fall wheat, the sooner it is plowed in the better, as it will dry up and lose much of its value, by the effect of the sun and atmosphere. Farmers should be careful whom they entrust with the spreading, as all the lumps ought to be knocked apart, and the whole spread evenly over the surface. It is a bad job with which to be in a hurry, being about the opposite of cow-milking, almost impossible to do it quickly and well. For turnips, it is better to apply the manure in the drill, as the roots of the young plants come sooner in contact therewith, and are forced on faster, which is a great advantage where they have so many enemies, and where the fly, grasshopper, and a host of other insects swarming around, while the plant is young and tender, render it difficult to raise turnips some seasons with all the help they can get.

The manure remaining in the barn yard after the root and other spring crops have received their allotted quantity, and which should be about one-third of the whole, ought to be trenched over, and as much loose straw, old leaves, road scrapings, and other decomposing matter as can be gathered together, mixed with it, to ferment and rot through the summer, and so be in good condition to apply to the wheat and other fall crops. There are many opinions as to whether it is most profitable to plow it in or apply as a top-dressing, but there is no doubt, unless it be very fine, it is better to be plowed in, as although it takes more manure to be equally beneficial to the first crop, yet it does more permanent good to the ground, which certainly deserves some consideration. If the manure fall short, and won't go over the field, it would be well to leave all

the finest, together with the scrapings of the barn yard, and apply as a top dressing after the wheat has been sown, as it will help to equalize the crop, and if it is desired to have the field all equally manured, that portion may receive a light coating the forthcoming season.

## CULTURE OF THE CURRANT.

BY "R."

THERE are several species of currants, the varieties of which are more or less cultivated. Our garden varieties are derived from the species *Ribes Rubrum*, and are white, red, striped, &c. But for common culture only the red and white are used; these vary, if not in flavor, at least in size of berry and bunch. The old red and white Dutch have been much improved upon by some of the modern varieties. The best varieties, if neglected, will produce poor fruit, while the common sorts well cultivated and pruned, will give a satisfactory yield. The best sorts may be grown with as little trouble as the poorer, and the old Dutch being so common, I omit to notice them, and pass to a few of the improved larger sorts.

*Versailles*.—This is one of the largest, as well as one of the best red currants. It is a very great bearer; berries very uniform, of large size, large bunches, of good flavor, not too sour, and sufficiently early.

*Fertile de Paluan*.—This is a comparatively recent variety, and stands next to the Versailles in excellence. Bush a strong, upright grower; fruit not as large as the Versailles, yet of good size, in long bunches, tender, and of good flavor.

*Victoria*.—Bunches long, good sized berry, ripens late; fruit, if taken before fully ripe very sour, but when in perfection of good flavor; valuable for productiveness and lateness.

*White Grape*.—This is the best of the comparatively old white sorts. The bush has a different habit from the White Dutch, produces a much larger bunch and berry.

*White Provence*.—Bush a good habit, leaves generally, but not always edged with white or yellow. Fruit large and handsome—not equal in flavor to the Versailles or the Attractor.

*Attractor*.—Berry large, in a rather short bunch, sweet, and good. The leaf peculiarly narrow and toothed.

The foregoing will give sufficient variety for all general purposes, and are believed to equal any in cultivation. The currant is very easily propagated from cuttings. Select strong healthy wood of the last growth, in the month of October; make the cuttings about a foot long, cut just below a bud

square across, cut out all the eyes except three or four of the upper ones. This may be omitted, but to make handsome, tree-like plants, some pains must be taken. Set in a well-prepared bed, three or four inches apart, the upper ends near the surface; press the ground close around them their entire length, especially the lower end. After cold weather comes, cover with leaves or straw three or four inches deep, part this over the cuttings, or remove in spring. Keep down all weeds, and cultivate well during summer. Let but one shoot grow, and that the strongest, the first season. In autumn transplant to four-and-a-half or five feet each way in deep, rich, well prepared soil; manure and mulch well. Future culture consists in keeping the soil clean and well stirred, with an annual dressing of manure. Prune out all dead wood, and keep to ten or twelve shoots by cutting out all old wood in the fall or early spring. If desired to train to tree shape, all the lower buds are to be kept rubbed out, and prune to desired shape. Other fancy training is done similar to training the apricot, peach, vine, &c. The bush form is the natural one, and will retain life and vigor longer than any other form.

## THE RASPBERRY.

BY "T.," READINGTON, N. J.

It is a matter of surprise that the raspberry is comparatively so neglected. As compared with the strawberry, a given amount is much heavier, and contains more nutriment, while for quality it can scarcely be considered inferior. Although it requires considerable care, the bountiful crops of luscious, high-flavored berries which it yields, will make ample compensation.

*Soil*.—The raspberry is not particular in the choice of soil, flourishing on any land of moderate fertility, though a deep, sandy loam has the advantage of prolonging the ripening season, and of producing larger and better berries. If possible, the ground selected should have a northern slope, as the raspberry thrives best in a cool and somewhat shaded position.

*Preparing and Planting*.—The ground should be thoroughly and deeply pulverized to allow the roots to spread, and to guard against drouth. For garden culture this may be performed by spading two or three depths of the spade and smoothing the surface with the rake; but for field culture, a subsoil plow following the common plow, and loosening the ground 18 or 20 inches, and the surface well harrowed, will be more expeditious and less expensive. The soil having been prepared, strike a light furrow where each row of plants is intended to be, and set the plants in fine, mellow soil, and not too deep.

The distance for the plants depends on the vigor of the variety; but rows six feet apart, and plants from four to six feet in the row, are about right. They should be set in early spring.

*After Management.*—The soil being properly prepared, an occasional plowing will be all that is required to keep the ground clean. A good practice is to cultivate the ground in the spring or early summer, and then cover it with a coarse mulch, as straw, corn stalks, refuse hay, &c., which not only keeps down weeds, and keeps the soil mellow, but also assists in preventing drouth. As soon as the canes have made a growth of four or five feet, they should be tapped, as longer canes than that are not as productive, nor as easily managed. The old wood should be removed every year, as soon as the crop is taken off, to allow room for the young canes, which are to be the producers the next year.

*Training*—Is done by means of stakes or trellis. Some drive stakes by the plants, and tie the canes to them with willow twigs, while others use trellis of various kinds. Perhaps the cheapest way is to draw a wire along each side of the row, supported at intervals by stakes driven into the ground. This furnishes support for the canes, which, while young are very tender, and keeps them from falling down when loaded with fruit.

#### VARIETIES.

But a few of the best can be here described.

*The Fastolf*—Is an English variety, and is a



strong, vigorous grower, with large, high-flavored berries.

*American Black.*—The common wild black raspberry, reduced to cultivation, is perhaps as good a

berry as any—being rich, productive, and well suited for market purposes. It is hardy, and endures the winter without protection.

*The Doolittle*—Is a seedling of the above, and is one of the most productive varieties known.

*The Kirtland*—Is an oblong, moderately firm, and hardy variety, originated by Prof. J. P. Kirtland, of Ohio. It ranks among the best.

*The Franconia*—is a foreign variety, and bears large crops of good, firm, marketable fruit. It is much esteemed.

#### BEST PASTURE FOR DAIRY COWS.

BY "VICTOR."

A very important matter. I hope just fifty practical dairymen will each submit an essay upon the subject. Here is mine in a paragraph. Don't know about the quality of the essay; but I know the pasture is the best, or one of the best in this world:—

My friend and neighbor, Thomas Hopkins, of Rose Hill, Montgomery County, Pa., an intelligent, practical dairyman and country gentleman, of more than thirty years dairy practice, and whose daughters and daughter-in-law make among them as good butter as ever came from the "Land of Goshen," or any other region—my neighbor Hopkins has always the best cow pastures I have ever seen. Fields varying from fifteen to thirty acres—rolling, shade trees to shelter thirty head of cows—nice running streams of pure spring water in them, seeded with half clover, a quarter herds, and a quarter orchard grass—rotated regularly, never cropped close, and top-dressed with barnyard manure every fall. Pasturing three years, and then breaking up for corn or wheat. Any one with equally good soil and like practice, may have one of the best cow pastures for dairy purposes.

WHEAT is being shipped from Liverpool to New York.

A tobacco fair will be held at Louisville, Ky., on the 12th and 13th of June.

SALMON have been successfully transferred from England to the rivers of Australia.

ONE thousand eight hundred acres of land are devoted to cranberries in the State of New Jersey.

MR. LAWES estimates the manure from a ton of straw to be worth \$2.68, while that from a ton of clover hay is worth \$9.64.

It is estimated that there are 900,000 hired farm laborers in the United States, excluding freedmen and 2,500,000 proprietors of farms.

*The London Agricultural Gazette* says:—in fifteen counties 11 persons have been imprisoned, and 2,184 fined for violations of laws and orders for the suppression of the cattle plague.



**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Sheep—What Kind to Get.**

A correspondent of *The Rural World* speaking of the advantages of long woolled sheep, says:—The wool of these foreign sheep, the long *combing* wools, will command a greater price than the finest Merino. This is in consequence of the nature and quality of the wool, which must have machinery expressly for its manufacture, and which it has. Mills are established in different parts of the country for this purpose—and it pays these mills to manufacture this wool at the present prices: and the probability is it will continue to; so say those who are supposed to know. The thing looks safe to invest in these sheep, even at something of an expense to get them. Each year that the Western farmer is without these sheep, say from ten to twenty-five on an ordinary farm, he is losing money. He is sacrificing ease with it, as there is little hard work in keeping a few sheep.

**Scab in Sheep.**

Randall, in his "Practical Shepherd," gives the following remedy, recommended by Chancellor Livingston: First I separate the sheep, (for it is very infectious.) I then cut off the wool as far as the skin feels hard to the finger; the scab is then washed with soap-suds, and rubbed hard with a shoe brush so as to cleanse and break the scab. I always keep for this use a decoction of tobacco, to which I add one-third as much hog's lard as will be dissolved by the lye, a small quantity of tar from the tar bucket which contains grease and about one-eighth of the whole, by measure, of spirits of turpentine. The liquor is rubbed upon the part infected, and spread to a little distance round it in three washings with an interval of three days. I have never failed in this way to effect a cure when the disorder was only partial.

**Washing and Shearing Sheep.**

About the first of June is washing time, and in eight or ten days shearing commences. It is not strictly necessary to have running water; any pool that in washing does not cause muddy water, the stiller the better. Never catch sheep by the wool, as it causes the blood to settle, and, it is said, causes hairs to take the place of wool in the succeeding growth. Always first place the shepherd's crook just above the gambrel on the hind leg, and nearly all that have been used to the hook will back up to you, when with your right hand you grasp the off hind leg, and with your left the near fore leg, and as you lift, roll their feet up with the back towards you, and you have the easiest position for yourself and sheep. One of the most important items in sheep husbandry is to get good shearers, and when found, they are cheap at high wages, while poor ones are dear for their board. By placing the ends of the fingers on the edge of the outer blade, and the ball of the thumb on the other, the shears can be placed flatly on the sheep giving the wool a gentle pressure with the left hand, so as not to give the wool a second cut, nor yet raise the skin. By taking short clips, shearing is both handsomely and economically done.

Immediately after shearing, being the time to sell fat wethers, they will bring twenty per cent. more nicely sheared than otherwise. At three years wethers are much the easiest fattened. Good or poor, tying the fleece will vary the price in market from one to five cents per pound. The wool buyer makes his bid on the "best side out principle," and unless you act accordingly, he gains what you lose, and both are ignorant of the fact. The fleece should be carefully laid on the tying table inside down, and placed as nearly as may be in a natural position; fold the sides so as to have it double; then lap the ends so that one more doubling will bring the shoulders for the outside or wrapper; then tie at suitable distance from the edge and cut off, the same on the other side and cut off; then across the same way, cutting off each tying. If properly done, it will appear in quite a square form. Should be packed or corked in a tight room, as compact as possible, leaving it weighted down. If left in this condition thirty days, the increase in weight will be nearly ten per cent.—*Farmers' Advertiser*.

**Hen Manure.**

A correspondent of *The Germantown Telegraph* speaking of the value of hen manure says:—It possesses a value almost equal to that of the best guano, even when mixed with half its bulk of garden mold. By mixing the excrement of hens with muck, or well decomposed peat, and saturating the whole with urine, or diluted sulphuric acid, a compound of great energy will be found, and which, when applied to the purposes of vegetable enrichment in the ordinary way, will insure the best and most salutary results on any crop.

**Selecting Seed.**

The Lower Canada *Agriculturist* discourses very sensibly on the importance of sowing and planting good seed as a preliminary to a good and prolific harvest. It says:—"All grain seeds are furnished with oil and starch, which are designed to furnish nutriment to the germ when it first starts, before becoming capable of extracting it from the soil. Now, if anything affects these, such as mold, &c., the plant that should happen to grow from such seed would be influenced by the imperfection of the seed whence it sprung." There is more in this than is usually conceded by practice, and farmers would derive benefit from greater care and discrimination in the seed they plant and sow.

**Orange Crop in Florida.**

The St. Augustine *Examiner* says that the orange crop has been underestimated. From one grove ninety thousand have been sold. The prospect for next year is very fine. *The Examiner* says:—"The trees are perfectly loaded with blossoms, many of them looking like an immense bouquet. One or two of the largest groves in the vicinity of the city, will, if the season continues favorable, bear between one and two hundred thousand. Of course it is as yet impossible to make an approximate estimate, but the crop, provided we have no severe frost, will surpass by far any that we have had for years."

**Scratches in Horses.**

Ashes of corn cobs mixed with lard, and applied to the affected part. A sure cure.—*J. H., in Farmers' Club*

**Profit in Bee-Keeping.**

As a proof that bee keeping, as a business, pays as well or better than any branch of horticulture, I would state that I am now offered for my bees, \$500 cash. It is not yet six years since I paid \$30 for the four stands with which I commenced the business. I have never bought a hive since. So this is the increase of my capital in five seasons, saying nothing of the bees, honey, and wax sold in the meantime, or the pleasure derived from the business. Now that I have so many hives, I find the profit increasing every year, without requiring more time and labor than I bestowed on a few. So far from there being any danger of over-stocking, I find my bees have done better the two past poor seasons than many have done where there were but a few hives kept in one place, and I am convinced that, where they are managed rightly, hundreds of colonies will do well where one will. To accomplish this, however, it is indispensable to have them strong and vigorous in spring, that they may take advantage of the whole honey harvest.—*Ellen S. Tupper*

**Botts in Horses.**

A correspondent from Berkley county, West Virginia, sends the Department of Agriculture a specific for botts in horses. He says: To tell whether it is an attack of colic or botts, take some fine salt and blow a mouthful into each nostril; if it is colic, water will begin in a few moments to drop from the nostrils; if not, it is botts. In the latter case, drench with a pint of melted hog's lard, and in a few hours repeat the dose.

**Rolling Wheat and Rye.**

This, says *Colman's Rural World*, is an operation that is almost entirely neglected, and is one of great importance to the crop. The alternate freezing and thawing in winter raises the roots of the plants and exposes them to the drying spring winds. Passing over the field with the roller, whenever the ground is dry, presses the soil to the roots, and sets them firmly to the ground. In some cases the harrow is very good, but the roller is always admissible. And yet we find many a farm on which the use of the roller is entirely unknown!

**Butter Making.**

*The Revue & Economie Rurales* states that from recent experiments made by a French farmer, it appears that the last milk drawn from a cow contains ten times more milk and butter than the first milk. Hence it follows that if, after drawing eight or ten litres of milk from a cow, the operation is stopped, and about a litre left in the dugs, nearly one-half of the cream and butter is lost. The best way of making butter, according to the same authority, is to pour cream into a linen bag, then tie it up, and put it into a hole dug in the ground, which is afterwards covered with earth. There it must remain for twenty-five hours; after which, on being taken out, the cream is found to have become quite hard. It is then crushed in a mortar with a wooden pestle, half a glass of water being added to separate the butter, an operation which does not last two minutes. No other system of making butter is

now employed in Normandy, for there is not only a saving of time and labor, but a large quantity of butter is got out of the cream, and its quality is excellent. Some people put the first bag into the second one, in order to avoid bringing the earth too closely into contact with the butter.

**Southdowns.**

A correspondent of *The Prairie Farmer* says:—The Southdown sheep will shear, on the average, about eight pounds of wool that will not lose over one-third by cleansing for the cards, worth more per pound in the fleece than any of the fine wools, for this reason—the wool is fine enough for all manufacturing purposes except the very finest descriptions of goods. A two-year old Southdown wether or buck will shear twelve pounds of wool that will weigh eight pounds when cleansed for the cards; his carcass will weigh from 175 to 200 pounds, gross, worth more per pound than any other breed in this country, or perhaps anywhere else. This breed of sheep is ready for the butcher at any time from two months and a half old to five years, giving as much weight for their feed and age as any other breed, always netting more in proportion to gross weight. The Southdown buck has always been profitably introduced into a flock, improving as he always does, and ever will, in my judgment, every breed upon which he is crossed.

**Preserving Potatoes.**

A correspondent of *The Scientific American* says that he has tried the following method of keeping potatoes for two years with complete success, though in some instances the tubers were diseased when taken out of the ground: "Dust over the floor of the bin with lime and put in about six or seven inches deep of potatoes, and dust with lime as before. Put in six or seven inches of potatoes and lime again; repeat the operation until all are stored away. One bushel of lime will do for forty bushels of potatoes, though more will not hurt them—the lime rather improving the flavor than otherwise.

**Labels.**

Marshall P. Wilder, in labelling trees, uses a zinc label with the indelible ink, but on one occasion he wrote on the zinc with a lead pencil, and found the writing grew more distinct and durable with age, so that it could not be erased except by scraping, after several years.

**Agriculture.**

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for March contains the gratifying statement that increased attention has been paid during the year to stock breeding throughout the country, particularly at the South. The report says:—The fact is daily becoming more apparent that stock growing is a more profitable branch of agriculture than grain production, especially in localities distant from market. The indications of a wheat crop are generally favorable. The snows of the past winter, and the general uniformity of cold weather, prevented winter killing in a great degree. The spring has been late, with less of alternate freezing and thawing than usual, and the young shoots, as a result, look green and vigorous.

## Horticultural.

### THE GARDEN.

So cold, wet, and backward has been the season, that many of the crops usually planted during the latter part of May, will probably have to be planted or transplanted the early part of June this year. Such may be the case with Lima beans, winter squashes, and in transplanting cucumbers, tomatoes, egg plant, peppers, &c. Well, they may possibly mature just as early for it.

*Asparagus*.—Cease to cut when green peas come in to take its place, and give it a chance to form a good basis for next year's crop.

*Beets*.—For the winter's supply may yet be sown, and early ones thinned out, those pulled out making good greens.

*Cabbage and Cauliflower*.—For fall use, may be transplanted this month: for winter, the next month.

*Carrots*.—If sown early, and not yet weeded, should be at once. If the weeds have got a pretty good growth they should be raked up and carried to the compost heap.

*Celery*.—Transplant in seed bed, to give more room, and make stronger plants.

*Cucumbers*.—Plant for pickles.

*Okra*.—May yet be sown, or thinned, if previously sown.

*Pumpkins*.—Will bear the remarks applied to carrots.

*Radish*.—Sow summer varieties.

*Rhubarb*.—Any surplus may be bottled, and will make good pies next winter.

*Squash*.—Winter varieties may yet be planted, but it may be well to first sit down and count the cost, and if not willing to meet the labor of exterminating bugs you had better not plant them.

*Tomatoes*.—If the plants have been frequently transplanted in the hot bed, they may yet be set out in the open air, with the prospect of about as early fruit, as if transplanted two weeks earlier.

If dry weather comes on, remember there is no way of counteracting its effects so successfully as by stirring the soil.

### FRUIT GARDEN.

DURING this month we commence gathering the ripe fruit, and also reap the reward of our past labors. Strawberries come first, and if we have a sufficient assortment of early, medium, and late varieties, may be prolonged to four or six weeks. If we want to enjoy the strawberry in its most exquisite flavor, we should leave it on the vine until fully ripe, when it will melt in the mouth. Even the Wilson loses much of its acidity when dead ripe, with its saccharine qualities fully developed. If the bed has been kept mellow and clean, the fruit will be liable to become dirty, which may be prevented by mulching with clean straw or the fine grass mown on the lawn. The latter should be partially dried before using it.

Raspberries and blackberries should be kept mellow and free from weeds, and the suckers of those varieties which produce them, cut upon their first appearance, as they but rob the canes that are to be preserved for fruit bearing.

Currants should be watched closely for the currant worm, which should be promptly treated with a dusting of powdered white hellebore on their first appearance.

Watch grapes closely, and rub off such branches as are not required either to sustain the current crop, or make wood for next year. Grape vines are injured immensely by overbearing, so when bunches enough are set, for the vine to sustain in health, pick off the overplus.

In regard to mulching, see directions in the May number.

### HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

THE middle of May, and not a fruit tree in blossom! Can the "oldest inhabitant" remember such another season? Last spring was a backward one, but pears, cherries, and peaches, showed as much sign of blossoming, in the middle of April, as they now do the middle of May. True, a cold snap came on then, and kept them stationary for about two weeks, but they were in full bloom the first of May, and apples by the 12th, when a sharp frost cut them off. Perhaps all fruits will bloom so late this year as to escape frost.

By the way, does the aforesaid "oldest inhabitant" remember second day of May morning as cold as that of this year? The thermometer stood at 23° Fahrenheit at daybreak. Feared that pears, which were the most forward fruit was killed, but perceive that they are not. After all, we may have a fruitful year yet. In our grounds, the Metcalf strawberry commenced blossoming soon after the first, and the Wilson followed a day or two afterward, and they are days ahead of all other varieties in blooming, although we have French's and Downer's. Still, those varieties which blossom first, are not always so far ahead in ripening their fruit.

Peas, radishes, spinach, have been up three weeks, but have made but little growth, so cold has it been.

Strawberries transplanted four weeks ago, have struggled through bravely, and are looking well.

We have worked our land this spring under constant protest. There has been but two or three days, about the 20th of April, that land has been dry enough to work, excepting perhaps, light, sandy soil, and we are of opinion that such soils are injured by being worked when so wet. But we had only the alternative to get in our crops when the soil was too wet, or not at all; and now we must do what we can towards counteracting the ill effects by stirring and pulverizing the soil.

STRAWBERRIES and raspberries being great exhausters of vegetable matter should be liberally manured with decayed leaves, straw, chip manure, or some artificial manure.



## CULTIVATION OF PARLOR PLANTS.

A LECTURE DELIVERED TO THE LADIES AT THE TRACY FEMALE INSTITUTE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM WEBSTER.

My remarks this morning will be confined chiefly to Vegetable Physiology, and the Plants which you now see, and upon which I am about to Lecture, are mainly of that class that are usually cultivated in dwelling-houses. You will recollect that on a previous occasion I said something to you about the importance of keeping the roots of plants in a healthy state, and I now desire to impress this still further upon your attention, for it is quite as necessary for every lady who cultivates flowers to know the condition of the roots of the plants which are under her care, as it is for the physician to know the state of the pulse of the patient he is about to prescribe for. This Geranium you will observe, is a fair sample of such as are usually grown in drawing rooms. Many a lady might consider it beautiful, and would exultingly show it to her friends as a remarkably healthy and vigorous plant, and as a proof of her superior skill in cultivating plants, and those to whom it was shown would in all probability coincide with her. To me, however, it has not a single trait to recommend it, for it has none of the characteristics of a well-grown plant. The stem is lank and elongated, with a tuft of green on the top like some antiquated palm tree, and you may think because the foliage is green, that the plant is in perfect health. Such, however, is anything but the case—nay, it is the very reverse. This plant from being kept in a warm and dry room, or heated perhaps by the hot air of a furnace, and being denied the pure, fresh air from without, has assumed the habit which you now see; but there is another difficulty which lies even deeper than this, and that is the root; during some period of its growth the plant has had an excess of water—the pot has been allowed to stand in a saucer of water for days or weeks together perhaps, hence the soil in the pot has become saturated with the stagnant water, and the young fibers through which the plant imbibes its nourishment have nearly all rotted away, or become so feeble as to be scarcely able to perform their proper functions. To convince you of this fact, I will turn it out of the pot for your inspection, by inverting the pot on the palm of my right hand, with the stem between the third and fourth finger, and holding the pot with my left hand. I now strike the edge of the pot once or twice sharply on the edge of the table; by this means you see the plant and soil is taken from the pot entire; you now see what I have already told you, the most of the fibers have rotted away, and what few there are, have become quite black, so you will now comprehend when I tell you that this plant is existing mainly from the nourishment it derives from the few large fleshy roots remaining, and the sap contained in its stem, instead of from the nourishment conveyed through young rootlets or spongioles, as a healthy plant should.

I am now going to show why nearly the same kind

of treatment is death to one plant, and the health of another. This Calla, in all probability received precisely the same treatment as the Geranium I have just shown you. These are both natives of the Cape of Good Hope, and are equal favorites with ladies for indoor culture. As I have never yet had the opportunity of examining the roots of this individual plant, I will now do so, but let me say to you beforehand, that I know precisely in what condition the roots are from the general appearance of the plant. When I turn it out of the pot, you will see what a mass of healthy roots this plant is supplied with. You may well exclaim:—How beautiful! are they not? Did you ever see anything in the shape of a root finer and fairer than these? Are they not pure and fair as the lily itself, and could you through the aid of a microscope see the innumerable mouths with which they are supplied, you would not wonder at their powers of absorption—in fact, it is to this power of absorption that its success as a parlor plant is mainly due; its native habitat is along the margin of rivers, and although generally treated as an aquatic plant, it has its period of rest.

You ask, what should be the treatment of this plant in dwellings? Premising the season to be the first of February, and you have a good young healthy plant to start with, place it and keep it continually during its growing season as near the window as possible, and let the pot stand in a saucer of water. This should be changed every day, and each fresh supply should be rain water, not colder than the temperature of the room in which the plant is placed. If water should be withheld so that the plant is suffered to become dry, a loss of flowers would be the result. You need have no fear of giving too much water while the plant is in a growing state, as it has the power of discharging the superabundant moisture from the points of its leaves which may be seen hanging in crystal drops. After flowering, say the latter end of June, the leaves will begin to wither at their points. As soon as this makes its appearance, the quantity of water should be gradually lessened until the plant is finally dried off in September, when it may be removed to a cool, dry cellar, and kept without water for at least a month, then re-potted in a soil composed of three parts sandy loam, and one of black alluvial soil, well mixed, and returned to the sitting room, and supplied liberally with water as at first.

To return to the first example, the Geranium, I would say that as its native habitat is among the table lands of the Cape, so its treatment should be the opposite of the Calla. I am now speaking of the cultivation of plants in ordinary dwellings, but those who can avail themselves of the adventitious aids of a plant cabinet or parlor greenhouse will be more likely to succeed than those who have no such aids; but there is not one among you but may expect to meet with a tolerable degree of success by observing the ordinary rules which I enunciate for your guidance. The characteristics of excellence in a Geranium should be large, healthy leaves, with a strong, robust habit, the branches extending laterally just above and well covering the surface of the pot. The truss of flowers should be large and nearly spherical in shape, supported by a

firm footstalk, rising just above the foliage, and the plant when turned out of the pot should present a mass of white, thread-like fibers, and to obtain this perfection the plant should be grown in a light, rich soil, composed of one part leaf mold, and a little sand, one part turfy loam, chopped up in pieces about an inch square, and well rotted manure. This should be kept moderately moist, but not soddened; the plant should be kept as near as possible to the window, and have fresh air admitted every fine day; but as the sun attains strength and power, the plant must be protected from its meridian rays.

Having explained to you the difference between a well grown Geranium and the one before you, I will now place the subject in a practical light. This plant which I now show you, is the Lobelia Erinus, an admirable plant for a hanging basket: the branches are long and slender; the flowers profuse, and the habit of the plant drooping and graceful. This is a well-grown plant, raised from the seed, and grown by an experienced gardener. As I turn it out of the pot, you will see that the soil is enclosed in a network of beautiful white roots like the finest lace. Handle it, it will not break—the roots are too strongly interwoven for that; neither will it soil the finest kid glove. But here is another also raised from seed by the same skillful gardener. This is the Canna Indica, or Indian Shot, the seed of which is encased in so hard a shell, that it requires extraordinary heat and moisture to cause it to germinate. The seeds from which this plant sprung were placed in a tank of hot water near the boiling point, for about a week; then taken out and sown in soil. Can anything indicate a healthier state than the roots of this plant? You see how the warmth and moisture causes them to follow around the inside circumference of the pot. You see from this that the plant has outgrown its habitation, and needs a larger pot. This is the way in which you must determine when a plant must be re-potted. This plant is fast becoming what gardeners technically call "pot-bound." As yet the roots have received no injury from this cause, but are in the full tide of vigor; but as I have said, the time has arrived when a change to a larger pot would be beneficial.

### PREMIUMS FOR GRAPES.

Longworth's wine house of Cincinnati, offer a silver pitcher, two goblets and waiter, to cost not less than \$350, for the best general wine grape for the whole country. A silver cup, valued at \$100 for the best grape for wine purposes in the State of Ohio. A silver cup worth \$50 for the best table grape for general purposes. The fruit to be exhibited at the next fall meeting of the American Wine Growers' Association of Ohio and Cincinnati, in quantities of ten pounds or more, with samples of the wine from the competitors for the first two premiums. The judges are to be Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, Solon Robinson, Dr. C. W. Spalding, one member of the Lake Shore Grape Growers' Association, and a member of the American Wine Growers' Association. Their decision to be final.

### PINE TIMBER AND ITS CULTIVATION.

NUMBER ONE.

BY D. C. SCOTFIELD, MICH.

Young as our country is, it is old enough to demonstrate the feasibility, the practicability and utility of planting and producing pine timber for all building purposes, as a part of our farming operations, and though not so immediate in its results in dollars and cents as we may desire, yet by no means less profitable in the end. I know in this fast age, everybody, young and old, from the prattling boy to the tottering old man—all are for "realizing" to-day or to-morrow, as the financial term has it, that they may make another "strike."

Now, as to the feasibility of supplying future generations of our country with this most valuable timber. This may be a new thought to many, or if thought of, only to be dismissed as idle, and if accomplished at all, it would be so far in the dark future, that the world which they seem to think will cease to revolve in its orbit when they die, would not be benefited by it. An old lumberman once gravely said to me, and with more truth than fiction: "That the present generation would scarcely pass away before the pine timber in the United States would be about all used up;" and although when he uttered this prediction he was standing in the lumber regions of Northern New York, and had but a narrow conception of the supply of the forests which lie along our northern boundary, and in Her Majesty's dominions on the other side, nor of the demand which a pineless world spreading southward to the equator, and from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains, would produce. Yet all this might have laid before him, and he would have come to the same conclusion, that pine lumber was soon to be among the things that were. The same law which produced the forests from which we now obtain our pine still exists, and is as sure in its operations as in all former time. Nearly all we are using have grown from tiny plants since the white man first trod American soil, and many mighty pines that would make boards three feet wide, now stand in the older parts of our country, which have grown from plants the size of a cambric needle within the lifetime of some now living. Now He who planted and has held in reserve this great timber belt which skirts our northern boundary, as if to save a supply for man's use when he would be most likely to let it alone till stern necessity compelled, to say nothing of the protection it forms in arresting northern cold, and who arranged the lakes and water courses by which this supply might be brought to our very doors, still keeps in operation the same law of production, and he who but takes a survey of His works cannot but admire His wisdom and care.

Yet, notwithstanding all these Providential arrangements for our good in these latter days, the same Hand long time before the woodman's ax ever swung in this wide wilderness which has now become "the land of the free and home of the brave," caused to grow the useful timber in clusters here and there, nearly all over

our entire country, yielding a convenient supply for several generations. Now that is exhausted, and we have long been drawing from more distant pinneries. The grave question therefore arises, and well it may,—What shall we do when this is gone? Shall we substitute other timber? But that also is being used up, and already we have to draw largely from the coal beds for fuel. All who have observed the methods of Divine Providence, have seen that a remedy was provided for man only in his helplessness. When God would have a people possess the new world, He covered it with forests of great variety for their use, or in other words planted and brought to maturity a crop for man's supply, not only of convenience, but luxury more valuable than any that have ever succeeded it from all the skill of the husbandman. If we would have new forests we must cultivate and care for them. With unmistakable language, He says to us, "Replenish the earth." To this, we respond, amen! and propose to set about this great work.

### BARBERRY HEDGES.

THOMAS J. BROOKS, Esq., of Loogootee, Ind., writes to *The Northwestern Farmer*, on the subject of barberry as a hedge plant:—Seven years ago, two barberry bushes were sent me, at my request, as I wished my children to see them and taste the fruit. Three years ago I became interested in this bush as a hedge plant. They are now from six to seven feet high, and each plant has sent up from its stool some thirty stalks. These are about the size of walking-sticks, and so close are they together, that they do not cover more than twelve or thirteen inches of space. Thus, if they had been set a foot apart, nothing could now get through them, especially as they are quite thorny. Their longevity is also worthy of mention. Bushes, from which I picked berries fifty-five years ago, are still growing and look vigorous. An old man ninety years of age, told me that there were bushes on his farm older than he was, which show no signs of decay. He adds, I never saw a dead bush unless it had been grubbed up. He also said that plowing near them did not make them sprout in the least. My bushes were planted five feet apart, and have not been clipped, but no horse or cow can pass between them now. I am sure if properly planted a foot apart, in rows, and cared for two years, they can be left to themselves, and that they will form a hedge in that time which will effectually turn all stock.

**THE VAN BUREN DWARF PEACH.**—The Van Buren Dwarf Peach is a beautiful pattern of health and productiveness. A tree in a twelve inch flower pot, in its second year, is well set with fine, sound-looking fruits. It was kept in a rather damp, but well aired cellar through the winter, and set out in March. It seems very easy indeed to protect these dwarfs in an open border or in pots, and they promise to be among peach trees, what the Early Goodrich is now among potatoes. It is to be hoped that a variety of good sorts may soon appear among seedlings of the Van Buren, which is the only dwarf peach I have as yet heard of or seen.—*Tyrone, Pa., in Country Gentleman.*

### OSAGE ORANGE HEDGE.

AN Illinois correspondent of *The Farmers' Advertiser* gives the following information in regard to planting Osage Orange Hedges:—A border ten feet wide should be plowed—first outward, so as to leave a dead furrow where the hedge row is to stand; then at least two plowings to the center, so that it will be slightly ridged, making a deep, mellow bed in the center. Now harrow thoroughly, and roll.

This will leave the land in good tilth, and with a smooth, even surface. It is now ready for the plants. Stretch a line where the hedge is to stand; cut the tops from the plants to within two or three inches of the ground, which will leave the plant about eight inches long, the root being six inches. The best tool to set with is a round, pointed, steel dibble; with this make a hole, set in the plant with the left hand, and then thrust in the dibble near to the plant, and press the earth to it. A good hand will set 3,000 to 4,000 plants in a day in this way. Some use a spade, and others a sharp stick, but the dibble will save its cost in setting a mile of hedge, over any other tool, and leave the plants in the best condition.

I have discarded all flat trowels and dibbles in setting plants either in garden or nursery. I have them made of different sizes. Those for the Osage are over a foot long, and at the thickest part, one and a half inches in diameter. The shank, or socket, is made like a chisel, into which is put a wooden handle, with a cross piece for the hand; or an old spade handle will answer the purpose, but it is rather clumsy.

One foot apart is probably the best distance, and the one that I now set them. I formerly set four to six inches, but find it does not make so good a hedge.

**PLANTS AND SEEDS FOR CEMETERIES.**—Hardy perennial plants are the best. The prevailing flowers should be white. *Achillea Ptarmica* (sneezewort,) produces large clusters of small, pure white double flowers, and continues in bloom a great length of time. The plant is trailing in its habit; the roots spread very much. *Campanula carpatica*—two sorts—blue and white, are neat dwarf varieties. *Spiraea Japonica*—spikes of white flowers. *Scutellaria*, a trailing plant, with spikes of pale crimson flowers; foliage deep green, with white stripes on the leaves. These varieties are hardy. With the addition of a few blue, white and purple hyacinth bulbs, they will make a succession of flowers through the season, and will live for years.

**Annuals.**—Dwarf *Ageratum*, Sweet *Alyssum*, White Candytuft, *Convolvulus minor*, *Eutoca*, *Gilia*, *Linaria*, *Mignonette*, *Nigella* and *Phacelia*.

**For a Child's Grave.**—*Nemophila*, *Nolana*, *Daisy* and *Myosotis*, with a few Snow Drops and *Crocus* bulbs, make a good variety. Plants of a trailing habit, and low growing, are the best.

Red, scarlet, and yellow flowering plants, should not be set in a cemetery.—*Mauds in Country Gentleman*

If you wish to impart to your friends valuable information on horticulture and floriculture—read p. 200.

## Ladies' Department.

### FLOWERS!

I love the flowers, the pretty flowers,  
Which grow in the forest deep;  
I love to gaze on them for hours,  
When my eyes and their beauties meet.  
Yes! pretty flowers, in the deep, deep wood,  
Thou seem'st to point, and tell  
The stranger friend, who in solitude  
Hath found thee blooming well—  
That the earth from which thou seem'st to come,  
Is smiled on by God, and warmed by His sun!

I love the flowers, the pretty flowers,  
Which bloom by life's way side lonely;  
They seem to remind me of happy hours,  
Which belong to the Christian only!  
Christian traveler! they seem to tell  
Of the Future, for thee in store!  
Yes! they seem to point to Heaven so well,—  
To rest above, when thy journey's o'er.  
Oh! then, Christian Traveler, think much of the flowers,  
They point thee to God, and to heavenly bowers.  
Rochester, N. Y. GEO. NEWELL LOVEJOY.

### HOUSEHOLD CARES—No. 5.

"My dear," said Tom., one morning at the breakfast table, "What is the reason that we never have a leg of mutton for dinner now; you know how fond I am of that dish."

"There is no reason, Tom.," I said, "except that you have not sent one up in some time, but we can have one to-day, if you wish."

"Well, say we do! I will call as I go down, and order one. I see Schlyer has some beauties, and what is better, he tells me they have been hanging over two weeks."

"Are they large and fat?"

"'Tis prime, just right for boiling. What do you say?—boiled leg of mutton and caper sauce?"

"Just what I should like."

"And now I think of it," said Tom, "I will bring Uncle Charles up to dinner; he has talked of coming for some time."

"Well, do."

"If I may be allowed to suggest, Mrs. —," said Tom., putting on his coat, as he spoke, "I should think, considering that you have a new girl, it would be advisable for you to superintend the cooking yourself to-day."

"I will do so, Tom.," I said. "I am as fond of a boiled joint and caper sauce as you, so you may depend on a good dinner to-day."

I said nothing to Kate, just then, about the dinner. It will be time enough when it comes, I thought to myself, and as the day before I had prepared sweet meats and pastry enough for a week, I knew that the dinner would be very little trouble to any one, and besides I was very much interested in the making of a pretty suit for my little girl, and did not care to take up any time uselessly.

"The meat has come, m'am," said Kate, about ten

o'clock, "Is it a roast ye'll be having to-day, m'am?" "No, Kate," I said, setting down my work, and ran to go to the kitchen to see it. "It is to be boiled. It is a leg of mutton, is it not?"

"Yes, m'am, and as fine a one as I have seen in this country. It would be a pity to boil it—it would make a fine roast, sure!"

"We always select the largest and finest for boiling, Kate; the small, lean, tough ones would not be very acceptable; and this is indeed a beautiful leg: and you must boil it in the large kettle, and be sure to pour over it boiling water, and let it boil gently; not too fast, remember; over the fire till dinner time; and then if you will have a kettle of boiling water, I will come out and make the caper sauce."

She promised to adhere to the directions, and I gave myself no further care about the matter till just before dinner time she opened the door and said:

"The kettle boils m'am."

"Yes, Kate," I said, I will be out in a minute; is the mutton all right?"

"Yes, m'am; it has been boiling gently since I put it on."

"That's right," I said, going into the kitchen as I spoke, and passing to the pantry to get the ingredients for the sauce. The first thing I saw was a milk pan half full of raw slices of meat, and a large bone.

"What meat is this, Kate?"

"That is part of the mutton, m'am. I thought I would save a half of it. It seemed such a deal after it was all cut up."

"You don't mean to tell me," I said, almost screaming with surprise and vexation, "that you have cut up that beautiful leg of mutton?"

"And, indeed, m'am and I did—did y'e not tell me to boil it?"

"But not to cut it up. I meant to boil it. Why, who ever heard of doing it any other way? I thought Kate, that you knew better, or I should not have trusted it to you; but you must make the best of it and dish it your own way."

"Yes, m'am I will, and I am sure it will be good, for at my last place they always did it in that way, and with nice, light dumplings made a beautiful dish, fit for the Queen, and all the royal family, if I does say it myself."

I knew that it was no use arguing the matter; the mischief was done, and as of course there was no use for the sauce, I went up to my room to prepare for dinner, feeling angry at Kate for her stupidity, as it seemed to me, and at myself for neglecting to see the meat put into the boiler at the proper time and in the proper way.

AUNT ROSA.

Do you want a choral organ?

Do you want a sewing machine?

Do you want a knitting machine?

Do you want a collection of valuable flower seeds?

Do you want Webster's Unabridged Dictionary?

Do you want a barometer?

Read our new Premium List on the last page.

## Editor's Table.

### To Our Patrons.

THE circulation of THE AMERICAN FARMER having increased at a rate which devolves upon us constantly increasing and laborious duties, we have for some time felt the necessity of sharing the labors of publication with an assistant who could assume a portion of the burden and attend to business matters which require the constant care and attention of the publisher. We have therefore associated with us in the publication of THE AMERICAN FARMER, our fellow-townsmen, Mr. George Newell Lovejoy, who will hereafter devote himself to the business of the office, relieving us of part of the responsibility. Believing this arrangement to be for the interest of THE FARMER and its patrons, we enter upon the publication of the second half volume with renewed determination to make our journal still more worthy the liberal patronage it has received in the past, and would earnestly solicit the cooperation of all our friends in making the paper known in their localities, and in forming clubs among their friends and neighbors.

### To Our Agents and Friends Everywhere.

WE would respectfully call the attention of every reader and well wisher of THE AMERICAN FARMER to our new and liberal half yearly Premium List on the last page of this number. Now, is the time to get your friends and neighbors to give the paper a trial for six months, which in clubs, comes at the remarkably low price of only THIRTY-SEVEN AND A HALF CENTS EACH! What farmer or horticulturist in the land can do without the information contained in six numbers of THE FARMER, when he can get it at such a trifling cost? Will not every reader endeavor to send us a list of five or ten, if not more, for the coming half volume. All names received up to July 1st, will have the June number extra containing the valuable Prize Essay on Cooked Food, which we consider alone worth far more than the subscription price for a year, to every farmer in the country. We have on our mail books over a thousand post offices to which only one copy is sent. Will they not, each and all, make the paper known in their locality, and by so doing add several thousand subscribers for the next six months? We desire our readers to feel personally interested in extending our circulation, and hope they will act as agents for us. There are thousands of farmers who would readily take the paper, if only asked. Show this number to your friends and neighbors, and ask them to subscribe to the cheapest and most practical agricultural paper in the country. Who will send in the largest club for the next six months, and take one of our highest premiums? Read over the list, select your prize, and little trouble will be found in raising the desired number.

We will send The Farmers' Record and Account Book, to any address, postage paid, on receipt of price, \$3.50. This work will last four years.

### Valuable Prize Essay.

WE take particular pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the highly interesting and instructive Essay in this number on Cooked Food, by E. W. Stewart, of Erie County, which should be studied by every farmer in the country. The subject of cooking food for stock, is getting more important every year, and it is of vital interest for us to know how and in what way we can economize in feeding stock. We see it stated from Montreal, that in Canada East stock are dying for want of provender, and here in this city, in the far-famed valley of the Genesee, once considered the most fertile region on this continent, hay is selling for \$30 and \$33. Let this subject be discussed, and this essay put in practice both for economy in food, and for the additional value which it gives to the manure obtained from cooked food.

### The American Farmer for 1866.

WE have on hand bound volumes of THE FARMER for 1866, with index complete, which we will send to any address, post paid, for \$1.25. Every reader of THE FARMER who has not got it, should send for it at once. It is full of practical suggestions, and the experience of many correspondents, and is worth more than the price to any farmer or horticulturist.

### Implement Trial.

THE trial of Implements, which was to have taken place at Utica, May 7th, under the auspices of the New York State Agricultural Society, was postponed on account of the unfavorable state of the weather at that time. It will be held two weeks previous to the next State Fair.

### Tracy Female Institute—Landscape Gardening—A New Feature.

It will be seen by reference to page 186, Horticultural Department, that Mr. William Webster, of this city, is giving a course of lectures at the Tracy Female Institute, on Floriculture, Landscape Gardening, and kindred subjects. Ladies not otherwise connected with the Institution are admitted at the same rates as the regular pupils. The day, we believe, for the lectures, has been fixed for Saturday. The hours are from 9 to 12 o'clock, and from 2 to 5. The instruction for one day constitutes a lesson. The following letter was written to Miss Tracy by a lady—an amateur florist, after having taken one lesson:

DEAR MISS TRACY:—I am greatly exercised on the subject of having those lectures more generally known, and improved by hundreds of women in this city and vicinity, who, I feel, would gladly attend the course, could they only understand how invaluable the lectures are. I have many friends out of town who have the taste and the means to attend, and who, if they do not feel that they are too distant, would, I am sure, avail themselves of this opportunity.

Every lady who has a love for flowers and the beautiful in nature, should avail themselves of the opportunity to attend these lectures, if in their power to do so. Further information can be obtained by addressing Miss Lucilla Tracy, Rochester, N. Y.

### Notes on the Weather from April 15th to May 15th, 1867.

THE weather proceeds as in the first half of the month, rather cool, but in the last half of April rather cold. The mean temperature was 44.8°, and the general average, 47.1°, or 2.3° above the actual temperature. The general average of the month was 44.2°, but the actual mean, 43.7°. The cold or heat was not at any time extreme, but uniformly the weather was cool. The rain in the month was 2.93 inches. The barometer was rather low, the mean being 15-100 inches below the average, 29.53 inches. The month has been rather pleasant, much clear weather for the season.

MAY began warm, but soon became colder, and continued cool—not one hot day—the hottest noon only 64°, on the 5th. The hottest noon in April was 71°. This first half of May was 46.1°, being 6.5° below the general average, and the coldest half in 31 years, except one, in 1841, when it was 45.°. The hottest mean of this half was 61.4°, or 15 degrees warmer. Well may we call this a cold half of May. An early cherry blossomed on May 18th, but last year on April 21st. Only three days of clear weather; rain on nine days, and slight snow on two more. The plum was in blossom in 1840, April 25th, but now just appearing. Water in this half month was very large, being 3.83 inches. The season is of course backward, by nearly three weeks. The wind from the north and west of north, very cool. Lake Erie filled with ice on the easterly part, and Lake Ontario is very cool—about the coldest in the year, about 36° along the middle.

On May 6th, the harbor of St. Petersburg, Russia, was clear of ice, and navigation opened, near latitude of 60° north, and Buffalo, at 43°, had not a little loose ice. Icebergs in the Atlantic, east and south of Newfoundland.

### From Canada.

Our correspondent "Mac," writes us from Canada West:—"The spring has been cold, backward, and unequal, with a moderate amount of rain, but no very hard frosts. The fall wheat has come through the winter's ordeal in fine condition, and looks much better than at this time last year. Owing to the very high price of grain, which has kept advancing all through the winter, and is now at \$3 to \$3.40 for wheat, and 50 cents for oats, per bushel, (gold), every available piece of land is being plowed up and sown with grain, and with but a tolerably good season, the crop must be large, and more than amply sufficient for our wants. Notwithstanding the high duties, American buyers have been operating extensively in our markets, and so with an enormous crop to sell, our farmers are obtaining famine prices. Stock of all kinds commands good prices. Mr. W. S. Stripp, of Dorchester township, sold last month, an entire colt, 4 years old, and a 2-year old filly, to a party in Detroit, for \$600, (gold,) delivered here. Much of the stock has wintered over badly, and some of the farmers in the more northern townships, have lost more or less stock, through the straw having been damaged by the wet weather at harvest and in the fall, and the want of roots to make

up the deficiency. Just now, (May 14,) we are being favored with warm weather and genial rains, such as will start vegetation rapidly."

Our Tennessee correspondent writes from Verrilla, as follows:—"Notwithstanding the backwardness of the season, there is a large spring crop planted with a prospect of a good crop of everything grown here except fruit. The frost of March 13th, destroyed perhaps two-thirds of the apples and peaches. Wheat promises better than for some years."

### Inquiries and Answers.

**Eds. Farmer.**—As I design to manufacture a considerable quantity of blackberry wine the coming summer, I desire some information in reference to the best method of making it. I hope some one will give through THE FARMER, what is considered the best method, considering economy in labor and money.—A. H. V.

**CASHMERE GOATS.**—Who has them for sale? We have had many inquiries in regard to these goats, and any one having them for sale, will find it to their advantage to advertise in THE AMERICAN FARMER.

### Patric's Improved Pump for Watering Stock.

WE had an opportunity lately of seeing one of these pumps in operation, and take pleasure in saying that it is all that is claimed for it. The one we saw has been in constant use for nearly two years. In the August number for 1866, page 287, we gave an interesting article on the importance of pure water for stock, from our esteemed correspondent, C. N. Bement, and we think that this pump fills up the want so long felt in supplying stock with fresh, pure water. The platform settles slowly and stock are not frightened by the depression of the platform, upon which the weight of a man is sufficient to bring up the supply of water. Another strong recommendation is, that the cost is so trifling, that it is within the reach of every farmer to place one or more on his premises. The attention of the reader is directed to the advertisement and testimonials given on another page. The construction is so simple that it cannot fail to be durable, and its usefulness warrants the prediction that it will supersede all other devices for watering stock, and will probably come into general use for house wells and cisterns.

**AMERICAN SHORT HORN HERD BOOK.**—Lewis F. Allen, Black Rock, N. Y., editor of the American Short Horn Herd Book, is now compiling the Eighth Volume of that indispensable work to the Short Horn Cattle breeders of the United States and the Canadas, and will receive pedigrees for insertion therein up to the month of June next, by which time he wishes all pedigrees for the volume to be sent in, if possible. Those persons not already having received, and wanting circulars containing directions for making out their pedigrees, with terms of entry, price of the book, &c., will please address him as above. The last (Seventh Volume) contained upwards of six hundred lar-

octavo pages, with upwards of 8,500 approved pedigrees, and the rapid increase of the valuable breed of cattle whose pedigrees these volumes record, will probably swell the next one to an equal, if not larger size. It is important to every breeder of thoroughbred Short Horns, to have a correct record of his stock in the American Herd Book. No other person is authorized to receive pedigrees for the Eighth Volume.

### New York State Sheep Fair.

THIS fair as previously noticed, was to have been held on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of May; but owing to the incessant rain of the two former days, little or nothing was done until the morning of the 10th, when the sun shone forth, and gave promise of a fine day. Under these circumstances, the number of sheep on the ground was small in proportion to previous fairs, the number this year being not over 800, while at the fair in this city last year, there were over 1,000. The attendance of visitors was very slim, and even exhibitors were in a great hurry to leave early on the last day. The following comprises the list of entries and prizes:

#### CLASS FIRST—AMERICAN MERINOS.

*Rams—Two Years Old and Over.*—William R. Sanford, Orwell, Vt., 1st prize, \$30; Wm. R. Sanford, do., do., 2d do., 20; John Sheldon & Son, Moscow, N. Y., 3d do., 10; H. & A. H. Miller, Greenwich; Conrad Bush, Lafayette; L. J. Burgess, North Hoosick; Pottle & Maltman, Naples; G. J. Hollenbeck, Hoosick; Woolverton, Matthews & Co., Canandaigua; Simmons & Sackett, Canandaigua; J. C. Short, Livonia; Walter Cole, Batavia; I. J. Whitney, Clarkson; Isaac Aiken, Scipio; J. S. Ketchum, Galen; Thos. Johnson, Savannah; Ackerman & Weston, Fleming.

*Rams—Yearlings.*—John L. Quackenbush, Hoosick, 1st prize, \$30; Marriner & Bronson, East Bloomfield, 2d, 20; E. E. Brown, Niles, 3d, 10; A. Thayer, Jr., Hoosick; J. H. Simmons, Canandaigua; J. S. Goodrich, Lima; Walter Cole, Batavia; C. E. Shepard, Canandaigua; Horace Allen, Aurelia; Isaac Aiken, Scipio; Ackerman & Weston, Fleming; E. Munson, Tyre.

*Ewes 2 Years Old and Over.*—E. E. Brown, 1st prize; \$30; Marriner & Bronson, 2d, 20; Isaac J. Whitney, 3d, 10; P. H. McMillen, J. S. Goodrich, Horace Allen, Isaac Aiken, E. Munson.

*Ewes—Yearlings.*—C. E. Shepard, 1st prize, \$30; Pottle & Maltman, 2d, 20; E. E. Brown, 3d, 10; David Cossitt, Onondaga; Marriner & Bronson, Isaac Aiken.

#### CLASS TWO—FINE MERINOS.

*Rams—2 Years Old and Over.*—Theo. N. Davison, Culpepper Co., Va., 2d prize, \$20; E. R. Freeman; Howard Leonard, Hampton; Wm. H. Pugsley, Danby.

*Rams—Yearlings.*—C. E. Shepard, 2d prize, \$20; Isaac Bowers, North Chili; Horace Allen.

*Ewes—2 Years Old and Over.*—Marriner & Brown, 2d prize, \$20; A. Thayer, Jr., Wm. H. Pugsley, Horace Allen.

*Ewes—Yearlings.*—Clapp & Sweet, Pompey, 2d prize, \$20; A. Thayer, Jr., Horace Allen.

#### CLASS THREE—DELAINE MERINOS.

*Rams—Two Years Old and Over.*—Wm. M. Holmes, Greenwich, 1st prize \$30; John L. Quackenbush, Hoosick, 2d do., 20; Theren Steele, Lima, 3d do., 10; T. C. Short, Livonia; C. H. Warner, Lima; Isaac Bowers, North Chili; L. W. Crandall, Alden; Geo. Bowen, Birdsall; Slocum & Aiken, Scipio; John Tyler, —.

*Rams—Yearlings.*—Hiram Hand, Genoa, 1st prize, \$20; N. & N. Bottom, Shaftesbury, Vt., 2d do., 20; E.

Munson, Tyre, 3d do., 10; J. H. Simmons, Canandaigua; G. B. Sackett, Canandaigua; Wm. H. Pugsley, Danby.

*Ewes—Two Years Old and Over.*—P. H. McMillen, Canandaigua, 1st prize \$30; George Brown, Birdsall, 3d do., 10.

*Ewes—Yearlings.*—T. H. Simmons, Canandaigua 1st prize \$30; Geo. Brown, Birdsall, 2d do., 20.

#### CLASS FOUR—LAMBS OF PRECEDING CLASSES.

Pottle & Maltman, Naples, 1st prize, \$15; John Sheldon and Son, 2d do., 10; Marriner & Bronson, 3d do., 5; Hiram Hand, Genoa; H. Allen, Aurelia.

#### CLASS FIVE—LONG WOOLS.

*Rams—Two Years Old and Over.*—John D. Wing, Washington Hollow, 1st prize, \$30; John D. Wing, do., 2d do., 20; Samuel H. Barons, Irondequoit, 3d do., 10.

*Rams—Yearlings.*—John D. Wing, 1st prize, \$30; John D. Wing, 2d do., 20; S. C. Griswold, 3d do., 10.

*Ewes—Two Years Old and Over.*—S. H. Barons, 2d prize, \$20.

#### ENTRIES FOR THE RANDALL PRIZE.

John D. Wing, Washington Hollow, 1 two-year old Cotswold ram. Weight of fleece, 19 lbs. 4 1-2 oz; age of fleece, 381 days.

John D. Wing, yearling ram. Weight of fleece, 13 lbs. 9 oz; age of fleece, 381 days.

Samuel H. Barons, 1 four-year old ram, (Leicester.) Weight of body, 265 lbs.; weight of fleece, 11 3-4 lbs. of well washed wool; age of fleece, 330 days.

#### WEIGHT OF SHEEP AND FLEECES SHORN BUT NOT ENTERED FOR SPECIAL PRIZES.

Conrad Bush, Lafayette, four-year old ram. Weight of fleece, 17 1-2 lbs.; age of fleece, 365 days. Shorn at the Rochester Fair.

Wm. R. Sanford, Vt., three-year old ram "Blucher." Weight of body, 133 1-2 lbs.; weight of fleece, 27 lbs. 1-2 oz.

L. J. Burgess, Hoosick, two-year old ram "Cashier." Weight of body, 109 1-2 lbs.; fleece, 24 3-4 lbs.

I. J. Whitney, Clarkson, 1 three-year old ram. Weight of body, 130 1-2 lbs.; fleece, 24 1-2 lbs.

Marriner & Bronson, 1 yearling ewe. Weight of body, 74 1-2 lbs.; fleece, 17 lbs. 10 1-2 oz.

Wolverton, Mathews & Co., Canandaigua, two-year old ram. Weight of body, 113 1-2 lbs.; fleece, 20 lbs. 3 1-2 oz.

Thos. Johnson, Savannah, three-year old ram. Weight of body, 122 lbs.; fleece, 26 1-2 lbs.

Slocum & Aiken, Scipio, five-year old ram. Weight of body, 123 lbs.; fleece, 18 lbs. 10 oz.

W. H. Pugsley, Danby, five-year old ram. Weight of body, 117 1-2 lbs.; fleece, 13 lbs. 7 1-2 oz; age of fleece, 365 days.

STOCKINGS and knit goods are used by all classes of persons, and yet until within the past five years nothing has been produced by the inventive genius of the country to take the place of the old fashioned knitting needles, which were the inseparable companions of our grandmothers. But the Lamb Family Knitting machine is producing a complete revolution in this respect, as it will do more knitting in ten minutes than can be done in a day by the old method. See advertisement page.

DIAMOND DICKENS.—Every lover of Dickens' works should secure this edition, published by Ticknor and Fields, Boston, price \$1.50 per volume for the illustrated edition, and \$1.25 for the plain, which is remarkably low for such a valuable work, and places it within the reach of all.



**LARGE EGG.**—We were recently shown a hen's egg laid by a fowl belonging to John Butler, of this city, dimensions as follows: 7 inches in circumference, 8 1/2 in length, weight 3 3/4 oz. Breed, three-quarters Jerking, one-quarter barnyard.

### THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, May 23, 1867.

**FLOUR**—White wheat, \$14.00@15.00. Red, \$16.50@17.00.  
**GRAIN**—White wheat, 85c. Red, 83c. Corn, 75c. Barley, 70c. Oats, 60c. Canada, 1.10. Rye, 85c. Rye, 1.75c.  
**HOPS**—30c@35c.  
**WOOL**—40c@45c.  
**HAY**—\$20@25.  
**SHEEP SKINS**—Prime, \$1.50@3.00.  
**PROVISIONS**—Lard, 18 1/2c. Butter, 20c@24c. Eggs, 17@18. Cheese, 16@20c. Potatoes, 60@80c. Dried apples, 10@11c.

### New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY E. EDWARDS TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

New York, May 29.

**BEEVES**—The number of beef cattle received at all the yards in New York City, and at the cattle markets in Communipaw and Hudson City, on the west side of the Hudson River, is 5,288 for last week's supply. The number is larger than this some weeks. Beef cattle are in excellent request, and fat ones sell quickly at high figures. The supply of such beef cattle as are really fit for good beef, is not equal to the requirements of the trade. The number of first quality cattle is always small at this season of the year, and heaves of this stamp are now selling for 16@17c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., net weight. Extras, of which there are not more than half a dozen for the week, sell for 15@15 1/2c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. The lowest grades of beef cattle sell for 14@15c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., net weight. Common cattle, 15@16c.

The quality of beef is unusually good this week. Large numbers of smooth Western cattle are now arriving. Last week the cattle were selling 1/4@1/2c higher than this week.

**MILCH COWS**—The number of cows received at all the yards for the weekly supply last week, is 58. Good milkers are in tolerably good request, as every cow that is in good flesh is disposed of for beef. Consequently, milkmen must purchase other cows to take the place of those that are slaughtered.

A few cows were reported the past week as sold at \$120  $\frac{1}{2}$  head. A small number brought \$100 each, and others were sold for \$40 @ \$50 per head, and some for \$80@90 each.

The number of really choice milkers is exceedingly few, yet there were some beautiful, fine-looking cows at some of the markets.

**VEAL CALVES**—There is a good degree of activity in the calf market. The number for the weekly supply for the past week amounts to 2,593. Common calves were sold for about 18@19c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., live weight, during the past week. There are large numbers of miserably poor calves sold in market, that are not worth more than 5@8c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. A desperate effort is made to maintain the high prices for this kind of meat. Calves that are "hog-dressed," by removing the entrails and cutting off the head before their carcasses are brought to market, sell a few cents  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. higher than those that are weighed and sold alive. "Hog-dressed" calves have sold during the week for about 12@14c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

Large numbers of the calves sent to this market are purchased to take into the country to be raised.

In my last report the compositor has brought out *boles* for *bobs*—young calves.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS**—The number of sheep received at all the yards during the past week, is 10,247. There are not fat

sheep enough offered to supply the requirements of the trade. They prefer to pay two or three cents  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., live weight, more for sheep that will make superior mutton, than to take up with ordinary sheep at low figures.

Sheared sheep are now arriving in large numbers from Illinois and other Western States; and those droves that are only in fair condition sell quickly at remunerative prices. A very few of the extra-fatened sheep were sold for 10 1/2c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., live weight. Perhaps about one-third of the droves were sold as high as 8@9c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., live weight. There are so many inferior sheep, that after the best lots have been disposed of, business is exceedingly dull, and drovers find it difficult to dispose of the remnants of their flocks from which the best ones have been selected and removed.

The number of sheep received at the yards at Communipaw, is 1,781 thus far this week. The 235 were sheared stock, fat; 81 lbs. sold at 8 1/2c. There were 290 Spring lambs sold at the same place to-day at \$5@7.50 each, or 10@15c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Some good 50 lb lambs were sold about Washington Market at 12c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., which was as high as dealers there were willing to quote them. They certainly go off very slowly. Two cars of sheep were received in Sixth street—good Ohio stock, clipped—and sold at 8 1/2@9 1/2c, the latter price only for very fine selected sheep.

Lambs are now arriving in large numbers, and fat ones find a ready market, at paying prices. Poor sheep are worth more at home than here in the city.

**SWINE MARKET**—The hog market is rather on the decline. Sales are slow and prices fluctuating. Most of the arrivals are sold at 7@7 1/2c@8c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. live, gross weight. The hog market cannot drop much lower than it now is. The best dressed hogs are worth 9@10c  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Large numbers of very inferior animals have arrived during the past month. The number for the weekly supply, at all the yards, is 11,266. This number is several thousand less than was received during the winter for the weekly supply. Fat swine sell readily at the foregoing prices.

**GRAIN**—The jockeying in all kinds of grain, here in the city, makes a man stand aghast, if he has any established notions of truth and equity. All sorts of rumors are reported in relation to the prices and demand and sales of grain. Grain dealers—brokers and sellers—are usually the men who report the state of the grain and flour markets; and they represent the demand and supply, and sales and prices, just as they think will most enhance their own pecuniary interests. My advice is, if a farmer has grain to sell, he has no reliable assurance of obtaining a higher price than the market will now warrant. The great cry about the scarcity of grain and the prospect of a famine, or much higher prices than the present rates, is the result of wild speculation. Farmers must look out for the issue. On the 18th, 15,569 bushels of No. 2 Spring Wheat, of the common variety, were sold for \$2.65@2.70 per bushel. A cargo of White California Wheat brought \$3.50 per bushel. The wheat market is dull and heavy. Corn is quiet. Sales of 55,500 bushels at \$1.30@1.31 for mixed Western in store. For White and Yellow Western, \$1.28@1.30 per bushel. Oats are firm, at high prices. Good Western find a ready sale at 86c@88c per bushel. State Oats at 91c@92c in store. Barley is in fair demand at \$1.00@1.50 per bushel. Rye is firm at \$1.72@1.74 per bushel for Western grain, and \$1.75@1.80 for Canada Rye, duty free.

**FLOUR AND MEAL**—Trade in flour and meal has been quite dull for a few days past, and prices have declined 10c@25c on a barrel. The following figures represent about the state of the market:

Superfine State and Western	10.75	@12.00
Extra State	12.00	@14.25
Extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c.	12.15	@16.00
Extra Ohio, round-hoop, shipping brands	13.40	@14.40
Extra Ohio, trade and family brands	14.20	@16.50
Extra Genesee	14.30	@16.50
Common to choice extra Missouri	16.10	@19.00

Southern Flour continues dull and heavy; sales have been rapid. 0 bbls., at \$13.40@15.10 for ordinary to fair extra, and \$15.15@18.50 for fair to very choice extra do.  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl. Can-



dian flour continues very quiet at \$14.75@17 for extra, 3 bbl.; sales 125 bbls. Rye flour has been quiet at from \$8.50@9.50 3 bbl.; sales 200 bbls. Corn meal is in moderate request, at \$6 for City, and \$6.65@6.75 for Brandywine, 3 bbl.; sales 450 bbls. Of California and Oregon flour, sales were reported of 400 bbls. and sacks, at \$16.85@17.15 3 bbl. of 196 lbs.

**BUTTER**—The butter market is well supplied, and butter is cheap. I purchased a tub on the 18th instant of as choice butter as any one can desire, for 26c 3/4 lb. Reporters quote prices quite too high. Their policy is to induce people to send on their butter. Then after it arrives, they know they can get it at their own price.

The total receipts of butter for the week ending this day, are 8,225 packages, a considerable portion of which are low grades of Western and State suitable for export as grease. The demand for low grades and grease butter has been active during the week, and full prices paid. Fine quality of old crop is quite scarce, and a good demand exists for coastwise orders at our quotations. The new crop of State butter, as we have before stated, is full a half month behind the usual period, and receipts are quite light and insufficient for the demand.

Fresh pails 3/4 lb.	80c@33c
Half-firkin tubs 3/4 lb.	28c@30c
Welsh tubs, 3/4 lb.	27c@30c

#### OLD CROP BUTTER.

Fine to extra State dairies, 3/4 lb.	28c@30c
Good to fine State dairies, 3/4 lb.	22c@25c
Good to fine Welsh tubs, 3/4 lb.	20c@25c
Common to fair State.	15c@18c
Western Butter—firkins, fair to good, 3/4 lb.	18c@15c
Western Butter—firkins, ordinary, 3/4 lb.	12c@14c

#### NEW CROP CHEESE.

Factory Dairies, extra, 3/4 lb.	16c@17c
Factory Dairies, fair, 3/4 lb.	12c@14c
Farm Dairies, extra, 3/4 lb.	15c@16c
Farm Dairies, fair, 3/4 lb.	10c@18c
Skimmed Cheese, 3/4 lb.	10c@12c

#### OLD CROP CHEESE.

Factory Dairies, 1st quality, State, 3/4 lb.	15c@19c
Factory Dairies, 2d quality, State, 3/4 lb.	16c@17c
Farm Dairies, 1st quality, State, 3/4 lb.	18c@19c
Farm Dairies, 2d quality, State, 3/4 lb.	15c@16c
Farm Dairies, common, 3/4 lb.	18c@14c

#### LIVE POULTRY.

Turkeys, per lb.	24c@25c
Fowls, do.	21c@23c
Geese, per pair.	\$1.50@2.50
Ducks, per pair.	50@1.25

**EGGS**—The demand is more active, and prices show some improvement. Receipts have continued full during the entire week.

Jersey, extra brands, per dozen.	21c@—
State and Penn., do.	19c@20c
Ordinary Western, do.	15c@19c
Western by Express, do.	19c@20c
Canada, do.	18c@19c

**BEANS AND PEAS**—The demand for beans is more active, at unchanged rates. Peas are quiet. Prime Beans, Kidney, per bushel. \$8.50@8.60. Prime Beans, Marrows, new per bushel. 8.00@8.50. Prime Beans, Medium, new, per bushel. 2.80@3.25. Prime Beans, Mixed Parcels, per bushel. 1.50@2.00. Peas, Canada, per bushel. 1.35@1.40.

#### POTATOES—

Peachblows, 3/4 bbl.	\$2.50@3.00
Moreira, 3/4 bbl.	3.00 @ 3.50
Jackson Whites, 3/4 bbl.	2.85 @ 2.62
Buckeyes, 3/4 bbl.	2.00 @ 2.50
Dyckman, 3/4 bbl.	2.00 @ 2.50
Chilian Reds, new, 3/4 bbl.	2.25 @ 2.25
Sweet Potatoes, 3/4 bbl.	4.00 @ 5.00

**APPLES**—Apples are in small supply, and limited demand. Quotations are nominal, as quality and condition govern prices in this stage of the market.

Apples, selected, per bbl.	\$6.00a \$7.00
Apples, Western, per bbl.	8.50a 4.50
Apples, Prime Winter, per bbl.	6.50a 6.00
Cranberries, Eastern, per bbl.	16.00a 18.00
Cranberries, Jersey, per bbl.	10.00a 14.00

**WOOL**—The wool market remains quiet. Domestic fleeces is only in moderate demand. Sales are slow and prices low. For the most part, manufacturers are the only purchasers, and they buy only to supply their present urgent demands. The following figures will furnish the market price. Domestic fleeces at 50@54c; for native and one-quarter Merinos, 53@57c; for one-half and three-quarters do., 58@64c; for full-blood Merinos, 65@75c, and for Saxony fleeces, 80@40c; for No. 1 pulled, 40@50c; for superfine do., 50@55c, and for extra do., 22@27c; for common washed California, 80@40c; for fine do., 15@22c; for Texas and American combing, 55@60c.

### Special Notices.

**A CARD TO INVALIDS.**—A clergyman, while residing in South America as a missionary, discovered a safe and simple remedy for the cure of nervous weakness, early decay, diseases of the urinary and seminal organs, and the whole train of disorders brought on by baneful and vicious habits. Great numbers have been cured by this noble remedy. Prompted by a desire to benefit the afflicted and unfortunate, I will send the recipe for preparing and using this medicine, in a sealed envelope, to any one who needs it, free of charge. Address, Joseph T. Inman, Station D, Bliss House, New York City.

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PATENTED MAY 1, 1866.



PATENTED JUNE 5, 1866.

*From Moore's New Yorker, Dec. 23, 1863.***Patrice's Improved Pump for Watering Stock**

The pump herewith illustrated is the invention of Mr. J. S. Patrice, of Rochester, N. Y., and is a new and apparently successful device for accomplishing a very desirable object—the watering of horses, cattle, sheep, &c., without hand labor. It is in practical operation on a number of farms, and is highly recommended



by men of good judgment and experience, as the best pump yet introduced for the purpose of watering stock. We have recently seen it in operation in Victor, near the depot, on the premises of Mr. Wright. The fixtures are in a crude state yet, though sufficiently perfect to show the force of the pump, and the facility with which water is supplied by stepping up on the platform near which the receiving tub is approached by the animals seeking water. The inclined plane leading to the tub or water tank is of an ascent so gentle as to offer no impediment to an approach to it, while its depression by the weight of the animal causing the flow of water, is so easy as to be imperceptible—hence causes no fright to the stock thus made to do their own pumping.

**TESTIMONIALS.***From Moore's Rural New Yorker, Sept. 29, 1866.*

Patrice's Stock pump is undoubtedly the best in use by which cattle pump water for their drink. By means of its peculiar packing every drop of water which gets into the pump must come to the trough, and that too, by so slow and steady a movement of the platform that the animal standing on it is not frightened. \* \* It took the first premium at the State Fair.

*Extract from American Farmer, August, 1866.*

The advantage of giving animals free access to fresh water without care or labor of the owner, is too obvious to need a word of argument; and the increased value given to the land by thus providing in any locality where water can be obtained by digging a well, so that it shall be brought within the reach of cattle at all times, without further trouble than setting one of these machines, is incalculable.

This is to certify that we purchased one of the Patrice Stock Pumps last August, and think it a very important and useful invention. It never fails to operate, and has given perfect satisfaction. We have often seen our stock cross a creek, and go on the platform to drink, showing conclusively they preferred pure cold water. It is often said by Agriculturists that the best butter, and a larger amount is made, when cows have a supply of good water; while on farms where they drink from muddy brooks and stagnant pools, no amount of care can make butter that will permit sweet.

JOHN OSBORN,  
HENRY C. OSBORN,  
LEVI S. OSBORN.

I am acquainted with the Patrice Stock Pump, and concur in the above recommendation. JONATHAN SPRAGUE.  
Farmington, Ontario Co., May 11, 1867.

I could give a great number of testimonials, but I think it unnecessary after citing these.

We, the undersigned, farmers of Farmington, Ontario County, having used the Patrice Stock Pump, fully endorse the above recommendation.

LORENZO HATHAWAY,

THOMAS K. BAKER.

I hereby certify that about two years since, Mr. J. S. Patrice furnished me with the first Stock Pump that he ever put in. To my surprise it has done all that he claimed it would, and is all that I can desire. It has been used for about forty head of cattle, and has not once failed to operate and is apparently in as good condition as when first put in. My stock was never so thriving as since using this Pump, always helping themselves to water as readily as from a running stream. I, with others, have seen them go on the platform to drink, when there was plenty of water on the surface near them. Nothing is more essential to the quality as well as quantity of butter, than pure fresh water, accessible whenever the cows desire drink.

I believe my Pump each season more than pays what it cost, in the additional amount of butter and cheese, without estimating the time saved by not having to pump water for so large a stock.

HARRY MERRIMAN.

Byron, Genesee County, N. Y., May 3, 1867.

We, the undersigned, neighbors of Mr. Merriman, assure the public they can place the utmost reliance in the above recommendation. We know Mr. Merriman to be a man of unquestionable veracity.

(Signed), J. W. Seaver, F. M. Dartas King, Oakfield, George Skinner, Irvine Taggart, Wm. T. Brown, J. C. Walker, Robert E. Merriman, C. H. Reynolds, Elias Chapel, George W. Peckham, M. B. C. Brown, Nelson Tuttle.

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The swell, managed by the feet, is also an improvement by which the most charming effects may be produced.

In addition to an agreeable touch, I think their pleasing exterior leaves nothing to be desired. Wishing you all success, I remain yours most respectfully,

H. C. TIMM.

From Prof. Halsey, Teacher of Music in the Public Schools, Newark, N. J.

NEWARK, September 29, 1866.

I have used your Choral Organs, both in my house and in some of the Public Schools in this city, where I teach music, and I am happy to say that they have given, and are giving, entire satisfaction. The tone is very full and fine, the action good, and the effects produced by the graduated swell are greater and finer than I have ever heard in any other reed instrument.

Yours truly, E. L. HALSEY.

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Yours, very respectfully, G. F. HALSEY.

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# THE AMERICAN FARMER



ENTERED according to Act of Congress, in the year 1867, by JOHN TURNER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Northern District of New York.

VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JULY, 1867.

No 7.



Now comes the swollen, growing summer time—  
The mid-hour season, when the rooted plants  
Draw deep and wide from nature's teeming breast,  
And push their pointed spires and broadening leaves  
Up towards the genial light which darts down  
In seething rays that pierce the deepest shade.  
The grass waves in the sultry, toying breeze,  
Like billowy fields on ocean's heaving breast;  
Or else, ere yet the sun has reached its height,  
Lies strewn in wavering lines beneath the scythe.  
The corn just shows its silken net, to catch  
The falling spores that form the golden ears;  
The vines run rampant, while the busy bee  
Mines deep amidst its flaunting flowers.  
The gardens promise harvest many fold;  
The flowers bloom full, and all the swelling fruit  
Grows fast, and tells of coming autumn days  
When patient toil shall reap its due reward,  
And grateful hearts give praise for kindly gifts.  
Belfast, Me. G. R. B.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

SINCE our last number the cold of spring has been followed by the heat of summer, and the work of months has been crowded into a few weeks; but the prospect of a bountiful harvest is the reward of a season of toil. Planting and sowing having been done late in the season, and presuming it to have been all well done, we must look sharp

"Lest wicked weeds the soil should overrun,"

and commence the war against the weeds in earnest. Especially should

**CORN**—be cultivated often. In order to secure a good crop, it will be necessary in these latitudes to keep the soil in good condition and stirred frequently in order to give it every stimulant to grow. We have always found a little artificial manure a great help in pushing forward the crop in a backward season, and we think the prospect is yet good for a bountiful yield.

**CORN**—may yet be sown for fodder, and should a drouth set in, it will be useful for feed next winter.

**TURNIPS**, ruta bagas, &c., should be sown extensively for feed for stock. Land for turnips should be got into fine tilth, well harrowed, and the seed sown in drills.

**GRASS**.—Cut in good season, not too early, or it will lack substance; and if left too late, will be hard and woody.

**WHEAT** harvest should commence when the kernel gets dry, which can easily be detected by pressing a grain between the thumb and finger. Wheat left to get dead ripe, will loose much by shedding, and consequently involve loss.

**TIMBER**—for fence posts, should now be cut and laid by to season for future use.

**IMPLEMENTS**—for harvest must be got ready immediately. Secure none but the best; they will last longer, and give satisfaction, while a poor one will be dear at any price.

**CLEANSE** stables and cow-houses. Let them be thoroughly renovated, and a good application of whitewash used freely.

**POULTRY**.—Examine the poultry for lice. Cleanse the poultry house thoroughly, and get sassafras poles for roosts, and scatter sassafras bark among the nests. Also place sulphur in the water.

**BEES**.—July treatment the same as June. Remove the surplus honey boxes as soon as capped over. If they remain long after being filled, the bees will leave the box, and it will then be very difficult to persuade them to renew their labors in an empty one. Give them an empty box with a piece of nice comb placed in the top, before they leave the filled one, and they will, unless the honey crop is failing, continue their work in the new box. This rule should be strictly adhered to. This is the troublesome season for the moth. Watch them closely and save your bees.

**WATER**.—Do not overlook the importance of a good supply of fresh, pure water in the meadows for stock. They will need water constantly and it should be within their reach at all hours to quench thirst these hot July days.



### THE FARMER'S HOUSE AND HOUSEHOLD.

THE true measure of a farmer's manhood is more certainly determined by his treatment of his family, those weaker beings whose happiness is so much affected by his conduct towards them—than by his management of his farm, or his business transactions. He is bound by his relations to them, to provide for them all the *innocent* enjoyments, comforts, conveniences, and refined luxuries, that his means will warrant.

*The House.*—Much of the happiness of a family depends upon the internal arrangement of the house, in which the female portion spend the greater part of their time. Generally the pleasantest portion of a farmer's dwelling is the part from which the family are almost wholly excluded. The parlor occupies the front part of the house, facing the road, the ornamental grounds, the most pleasant scenery; while the sitting room or the family *living* room, is crowded back to a less cheerful portion of the dwelling.

Now, this is all wrong. A farm house hardly needs a parlor, and if one is provided, it should never be so located as to exclude the living-room from the fairest prospect. Were we to construct a farm house with a parlor in it, we would so arrange it that both the parlor and sitting room would face the highway, and be separated by folding-doors. If divided by a hall, we would have folding-doors between that and both rooms, or a square hall could be located in a tower, jutting out in front between them. The folding doors we would have thrown open a portion of every day, that the parlor might be aired and warmed from the sitting-room. Who, that has ever entered an ordinary farmer's parlor, opened perhaps but once a month, or at most, once a week—and kept dark, damp, and musty, during the intervals, has not felt an uncomfortable chilliness and gloom that has greatly diminished the conversational powers? We presume farmer's visits would be more interesting if spent in a more *cheerful* room.

On the sitting-room we would expend all that our means would justify, in making it a pleasant, comfortable, attractive living-room. We would have high ceilings, large windows, all substantially and elegantly finished. We would have the walls hung with really good paintings and engravings, if able to procure them; if not, we would adorn them with portraits of our friends. The furniture we would have elegant, substantial, and useful. The library we would fill with entertaining and instructive, rather than showy books. The tables we would load with the best papers and magazines, always including the best agricultural and horticultural literature. Yes, farmers; expend your money and

taste upon your living-room. There your wives and daughters spend the larger portion of their time. There you and your sons meet with them to enjoy all the pleasures of family intercourse. There you read, talk, and play together—yes, play together; for those parents who are too dignified to play with their children—to join in their amusements and recreations, are unfit to train them properly. In this familiar intercourse with your children, you are establishing the position which you will ever sustain towards them, either as friends in whom they will ever delight to confide, or as austere, repelling guardians. You are at the same time assisting them in laying the foundations of their life-long character. There is the place to instruct, discipline, train up your children, mold their characters, by precept, and much more by example.

The dining-room and kitchen are only of less importance. Their leading feature should be *convenience*, so as to economize in labor.

The sleeping rooms should be large and easily ventilated, so as not to impair the strength acquired during the waking hours.

Such we regard as the most important requirements of the farmer's house. Now as to his

*Household.*—While labor should be the law of the farmer's household, he should, as far as he can, guard against imposing *excessive* labor. How many farmer's wives are broken down, their constitutions ruined, and their lives rendered miserable, by being obliged to labor beyond their strength! It often happens that a woman while raising a family of children, feeding them, washing, dressing and clothing them, has to do, besides, the entire work for one or two coarse, dirty, insolent hired men; cooking for them, washing, darning, and mending for them, and after all have to submit to their ill-mannered criticisms on the bill of fare.

A farmer, who is a *man*, will not lay such insupportable burdens upon his wife or daughters. If unable to employ good domestics, he will endeavor to lighten the labors of his household as far as practicable. He will build cottages in which his laborers may live and board themselves. He will procure all really labor-saving machinery, and have his kitchen arranged so conveniently as to save much labor in that way, he will submit cheerfully to occasional reductions of his bill of fare, when other household labors are pressing, and he will now and then lend a helping hand to relieve his wife of the heavier portions of her drudgery.

Sometimes a mother is too indulgent towards her daughters, and does not require them to render her all the assistance they ought. Then he should interpose his counsel, and if necessary, his authority, that they, while discharging their duty to their parents, may at the same time acquire that knowledge of housekeeping which will make it easy for them to preside over happy homes.



COTSWOLD PRIZE RAM "GOLDEN FLEECE."

THE "Maple Shade" flock of Cotswold sheep, imported and owned by Mr. John D. King, "Maple Shade," Washington, Dutchess County, N. Y., consists of selected animals from the best flocks of thoroughbred sheep in England, many of them being secured by Mr. Wing personally while in England. They are strictly pure, without a cross, and every sheep has a reliable pedigree. They were imported at great expense, the only desire being to form a flock of choice blood, second to none in the world. The larger part of them were bred by William Lane, Esq., of Broadfield. His name standing at the head of breeders on the Cotswold hills. Robert Garne, Esq., of Aldsworth, is largely and favorably represented, also William Hewer, Esq., of North Leach, and George Fletcher, Esq., of Andoversford, both known as very careful breeders. Mr. Wing brought over with the sheep a Cotswold shepherd, who remains with the flock.

These sheep are known for their heavy and valuable fleece, their great mutton properties and strong constitution. Their wool is very long, with bright luster, known as combing wool in our markets, being the most desirable, and highest priced of any. It averages over twelve inches in length, sometimes as long as eighteen inches, and shears from ten to fifteen pounds each; some rams fleece as high as sixteen to twenty pounds. For mutton, they stand second to none. In England, when fattened, they grow to a very large weight, as high as 350 pounds frequently. They are very hardy, capable of enduring any amount of cold and wet. Combining these

several qualities to the extent they do, they are undoubtedly the most desirable sheep for profit that our farmers can produce.

The sheep from this flock have never been shown that they have not carried off the highest honors; and the Prize Ram, "Golden Fleece," (whose portrait we give above,) was shown at the Auburn Fair of the New York State Sheep Breeders and Wool Growers Association, in May, 1867. After taking the first prize in his class, he won the Sweepstakes prize. He sheared on this occasion twenty pounds of wool. He was bred by William Lane, Esq., sired by "Cotswold King," the highest priced Cotswold sheep ever sold, and his dam was winner of the prize of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. He is the stock ram being used in the flock at present, and his lambs are very promising.

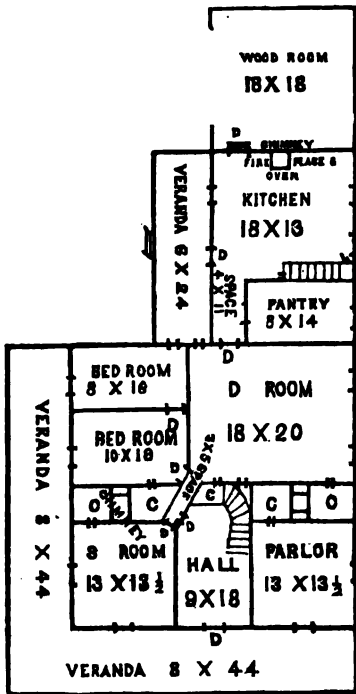
USE OF RAW AND COOKED FOOD.—Dr. Vanderweyde was invited to read a paper before the Farmers' Club, of New York, on Raw and Cooked Food. He said the principal object of cooking food is to destroy the animalculæ and the eggs of parasites in the articles cooked. The study of parasitic animals constitutes a special branch of medicine. According to the statements of the learned doctor, all animal bodies that are employed as articles of human food are infested with numerous animalculæ and infusoria. The microscope reveals their presence in the brains and eyeballs of men and animals.

BEEF brine is said to cure scratches in horses.

## COUNTRY HOUSES---No. 5.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "W. H. W."

THE accompanying plan explains itself, and needs no repetition here. As we do not purchase our land by the foot in the country we are not necessitated to build narrow, high houses constructed in a manner requiring the housekeeper, who is generally the farmer's wife, "to do her work in the basement, or cellar, and sleep in the attic;" on the contrary the main rooms should be so arranged as to make as few steps as possible in performing the necessary house-



work. It will be seen that the wood room connects with the kitchen by a back door beside the fire-place or chimney, which should have a good brick oven, and a set, copper boiler. "The old folks" bedroom is on the first floor with another of less dimensions connected. Closets are provided for on each side of the chimneys and under the front stairs. Communication with the cellar is had under the back stairs from the kitchen. Verandas extend around the front and south side; these add greatly to the pleasantness of a country house in various ways.

THE merits of the Dutch cattle as extra milkers are beginning to attract much attention. In 1865 nine cows of this breed, at the Royal Academy of Agriculture, in Prussia, gave 42,870 quarts of milk, 4,763 1-8 quarts per cow.

## FARM TALKS---No. 10.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. H. BRACKETT  
BELFAST, MAINE.

"Puttin' in your corn?"

"Yes, a little."

"Ain't this awful bad weather?"

"Bad enough. It can't seem to do anything but rain. There has been only eight days in May, but what rain has fallen at some time during the day. By the time the ground gets dry enough to work, another shower or rain storm comes and stops operations again."

"I never knew such a backward spring."

"Its at least ten days later than the average. Why, here it is the first of June, and only part of the trees in leaf. The ash and other late kinds won't be in full leaf for a week or more, now."

"How do you 'spose its goin' to operate? Will the crops get time to grow?"

"Well, we usually have a certain amount good weather, and a proper season for crops to grow and ripen. I've no doubt but we shall have a late and pleasant autumn."

"There'll be need enough of it. What's that you're droppin' under your corn?"

"Superphosphate."

"I've hearn tell of it, but never used any. Do you 'spose 'twill pay?"

"That's just what I am going to try to find out I am using several kinds side by side, so as to learn the comparative value of each."

"How do you put it on?"

"I use it in different methods. These rows I manured in the hill with a shovelful of old dung; on that I drop half a handful of the phosphate which I cover with a little dirt, then drop the seed corn on that, and cover in the usual way."

"Will your stuff kill the corn, if it ain't covered up with dirt?"

"Yes, the phosphate is so strong that when it ferments it is apt to heat and destroy the vitality of the seed, if it is in contact with it."

"There's a row that ain't got no manure in the hills."

"Yes, I am going to try the phosphate alone, and see what it will do. I have also tried some rows with wood ashes, and some with hog manure—all kinds of ways, to experiment you know, and see which is the best kind of manure and which is the best method of application."

"What does the stuff cost?"

"The phosphate comes at about \$60 per ton."

"Whew! that's steep, ain't it? Cost sunthin' I reckon, to farm with that manure."

"Yes, its pretty costly, but only little is required in a hill. I put in half a handful, and I find a barrel will about go over an acre of corn."

"Seems to me you don't take much pains to level off your ground when you cover your corn. It looks like boy's work after its gone over."

"That's a lesson I've learned by experience. Years ago I used to take particular pains in covering my corn, to make everything smooth, turn over every rod, and stone, and level it all off smooth and nice. But I have found that it is not only a waste of time, but it is preferable to let the ground remain as rough as possible, only taking pains to cover the seed properly. By so doing, it makes easier hoeing, more of the soil is exposed to the air, the soil is not liable to harden and bake, but is mellow and in good tilth."

"Soak your seed corn?"

"No; planted it dry as it come from the cob. I never could see that anything was gained in swelling the corn before planting. When the ground is full of wire worms, the seed should be lightly tarred."

"Believe in top-dressing?"

"Yes, I like a handful of ashes, plaster, or some stimulating manure for each hill after the corn breaks through the ground."

"What do you think of the plan of hilling up corn when you hoe it the last time?"

"Don't believe in it unless the land is wet, and then corn shouldn't be planted on it. Leave the ground as nearly level as possible at the last hoeing, and if the hills are pretty near together, the roots will occupy the whole of the soil, but if it is hilled high and deep cuts between the hills and rows, the roots will be confined to their own hills."

"Well, I hope your super—what you call it, will pay, but I've my doubts if you ever see the worth of your money again."

"Perhaps not—husking time will decide."

### STRAW SHELTER FOR STOCK.

VERY good and durable sheds may be made from straw with a little care and pains-taking. A good thatched roof, well laid on of good straw will shed rain and wet equally as well as shingles, and last nearly as long; and the expense is nothing compared with shingle roofs. A thatched roof may be made something as follows. Put up the rafters as for sheeting, on these place ribs, which may be split poles, nailed one foot apart. The straw may be strait. Winter rye, threshed by hand, is the best; lay it on strait and even without binding; fasten by laying on thin split poles, fastened to the ribs by splits or strong, tough bark; lay the courses thick and even, and finish off at the top by doubling the straw over the ridge, and fastening by poles stretched on the top. This will make a roof that will not leak, and be serviceable.

Sides of buildings may be covered with straw and made serviceable and warm with little trouble. Doors of straw may be made strong, light and tight. Tie, wire, or nail together a frame of round sticks, well braced, wind a straw rope of about two inches in diameter around the longest way, to cover the frame. Then weave a tighter wound straw rope, back and forth, weaving the whole in a single mat. The stands on each side of the frame may be plaited separately, thus forming a mat or door of double thickness.

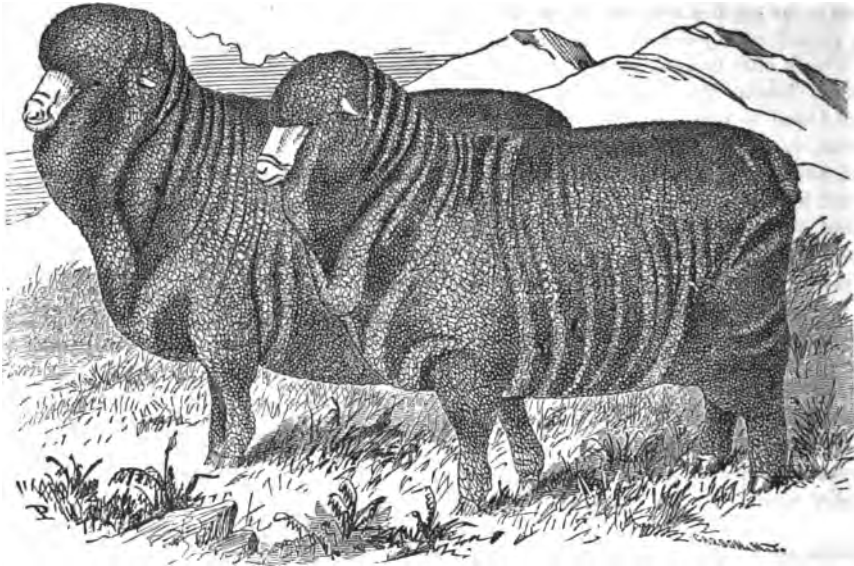
Straw sheds can have the walls sprinkled with mud to prevent the cattle from pulling out the straw—be made quite warm and durable, and stock provided with such, with ordinary care, will come through the winter in very good condition; and the expense of keeping is very much less than when allowed to be exposed to pelting storms.—*Cor. North-Western Farmer.*

### HOPS.

*The New York World* states that the cold and backward spring has retarded the progress of the hop plants, and the heavy rains have hindered labor in the yards. A large number of hills are winter-killed owing to the enfeebled condition of the plants from depletion caused by the aphids, together with a more than usually rigorous winter. The large body of snow has not protected the roots from frost as expected, since the snow storms have been all accompanied with high winds which left portions of nearly every yard uncovered and exposed.

The area in bearing this year in Otsego and Schoharie, it is said, will fall short of that of last year. There are reports from Michigan and Wisconsin, of considerable winter-killing there. The English Parliamentary returns show that during the year ending September 30th, 1866, 8,500 tons of foreign hops were imported into Great Britain, and during the same period there were exported 670 tons of foreign and 1,500 tons of British hops, exhibiting an excess of imports over exports of 1,830.

**A WONDERFUL TREE.**—In the birch wood of Culoden, Scotland, there is a remarkable tree well worthy of note. About thirty years ago a young giant of the forest was blown down, and fell across a deep gully or ravine, which it completely spanned, and the top branches took root on the other side. From the parent stem no less than fifteen trees have grown up perpendicularly, all in a row; and they still flourish in their splendor, while the parent stem evinces no token of decay. Several of the trees are not less than thirty feet high. The tree is a birch fir.



**INFANTADO EWE TEGS. PRINCES "GOLD DROP," AND "DIAMOND QUEEN."**

Ewe Tega. Bred by F. L. Upham & Sons, Weathersfield, Vt. Prince's "Gold Drop" got by Mr. Hammond's old "Gold Drop" (now dead); dam by "Sweepstakes." "Diamond Queen" got by Mr. Hammond's Sweepstakes' dam "Molly Stark." Bought of N. and N. Bottum, Shaftsbury, Vt., in 1882. Of pure Hammond stock.

### **SPAVIN IN HORSES—BLOOD SPAVIN.**

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY J. B. LONGAKER, V. S.

THE hock is plentifully furnished with mucous bags to lubricate (make slippery) the different portions of this complicated joint. Some of these are found on the inside of the joint. From over-exertion of the joint they become inflamed and considerably enlarged. They are windgall of the hock. The subcutaneous vein passes over the inside of the hock and over some of these enlarged bags, and is compressed between the skin and enlarged bag, and consequently the passage of the blood through it is partially stopped. The blood, however, continues to be returned from the leg and foot, and being thus arrested in its course, a portion of the vein below the impediment, and between it and the next valve, is distended, and causes the soft tumor on the inside of the hock called blood spavin.

Bone spavin, a still more formidable disease, ranks under the name of spavin, and is an affection of the bone of the hock. It is not unusual to see whole teams of horses, and that all the whole year round with the outer heel of the hind foot considerably raised above the other. This unequal bearing or distribution of the weight, cannot fail of being injurious. It will place an unequal strain on the ligaments of the joints, and particularly of the hock joint, and increase the tendency to spavin. The weight and concussion which are thus thrown on

the inner splint bone, produce in the first place inflammation of the cartilaginous substance which unites it to the shank bone. The consequence of this is, that the cartilage is absorbed and bone deposited, the union between the splint bone and the shank becomes bony instead of cartilaginous, the degree of elastic action between them is destroyed, and there is formed a splint of the hind leg. This is uniformly on the inside of the hind leg, because the greater weight and concussion are thrown on the inner splint bone. As in the fore leg the disposition to form bony matter having commenced, and the cause which produced it continuing to act, bone continues to be deposited, and it appears generally in the form of a tumor, where the head of the splint bone is united with the shank, and in front of that union. This is called bone spavin.

I have here given the seat and cause of blood and bone spavin. Although it is the prevailing opinion of some horse owners that neither the ringbone or spavin can be cured, and many a horse owner has sacrificed his horse or colt for merely nothing, on account of ringbone or spavin, I will say to all the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER, that ringbone and spavin can be permanently cured without leaving a blemish or mark by using the Datura Salve. I have cured old and recent spavins with the above salve in all cases where it has been used judiciously under my observation and directions.



## OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

### DEEP AND SHALLOW PLOWING.

BY S. B. PECK.

It is said by very good authority that there are lands that may be injured by very deep plowing; but my experience is, that such lands (if any) are very rare. I have no doubt, however, that some lands, in some seasons, planted with some crops, may not immediately show any improvement by any extra depth of cultivation; but that an improvement will eventually show itself in a paying way, on any soil, I have full faith. If land is too wet, deep plowing will allow the extra moisture to sink deeper, and give the roots of plants more room. If very dry and sandy, nothing in the shape of cultivation, will so well supply the lack of moisture as deep plowing. It may be well here to raise the question, What do we plow for? A proper answer involves much thought, and not a little science; and the answer, "to mellow up the soil, and kill the grass and weeds," is by no means satisfactory to the intelligent inquirer. It but incites a repetition of the inquiry, "What for?"

That we have learned by the teachings of others, and our own observation, that plowing increases the products of the soil, is a very good reason for plowing, but the man who plows his land, should know the why and wherefore. There is a little chemist in the surface of the earth; little, from the fact that the unlearned owner of the soil does not observe him, but gigantic in the result of his labors, as seen by the scientific observer. His laboratory is the upper crust of the earth, the elements upon which he operates are the minerals contained in that part which we loosen with the plow, the atmosphere, and the water, as it falls from the clouds, or is deposited in dew, or drawn by attraction from below. His furnace is the sun, his crucibles, retorts, and receivers are the interstices in this loosened surface, and the result of his decompositions and recompositions, of these raw and crude elements is the preparation of plant food, seasoned with all the condiments necessary to render it palatable to the plant. This unwearied chemist is Nature. She has been dishing up this plant food for ages, but her operations are slow and her efforts made at great disadvantage, unaided by the manual operations of man. The office of the latter is to supply to the soil whatever elements (if any) it may lack, to pulverize it for the free admission of air and moisture, and to put in it the seeds of the plants he would rear. Below that portion of the soil which we loosen with the plow, the beneficial operations of nature are slow and uncertain.

We all know that in soils which contain a hard pan near the surface, the roots of trees and plants do not penetrate, but run near and sometimes upon the surface, while those which grow in a mellow soil, strike deep, and often to a great depth; and the inevitable conclusion is, that they run deep where they can. I can conceive that new stiff clay lands, when the organic matter is mostly on the surface, may be plowed so deep, and become so compact afterwards, as to shut out the air necessary to produce the needed chemical changes, and we read of soils containing so much insoluble iron in the subsoil, that if turned up to the surface, it is poisonous to the plants, until by exposure to the sun and air, it has had time to undergo a chemical change. But my own soil, which is mostly a lightish, deep, silicious sand, I know to be the more benefited, the deeper I plow it; and even trenching in garden culture, to the depth of thirty inches, has produced results truly astonishing; and I have never seen deep and shallow plowing in contrast, in any soil, where the deep did not eventually more than pay the extra cost.

### ORANGE CULTURE.

BY "OCEANO."

I have lived among oranges and orange trees—know something of their habits and requirements. I shall endeavor to communicate what I know in regard to orange growing in a plain, practical manner, going in nothing beyond the limits of what I know to be facts.

Oranges can never be grown as a commercial crop north of the limits of the Gulf States, and by no means indiscriminately in these. The orange area will be confined to the Florida peninsula, small portions of Alabama, including several of her coast islands, the lower parishes of Louisiana, and a corner of Southern Texas. In California there will be an orange territory of equal, or perhaps somewhat greater extent—enough in all, if properly placed under cultivation, to supply all our demands for that kind of fruit, of a quality equaling the best Havana oranges without sending abroad for a single box.

Florida and lower Louisiana will be first to afford supplies from our side of the continent. California within the next four years, will supply all her own markets, and in less than ten years "Florida" and "Louisiana," will be ruling terms with our fruiterers, where it is now "Sicily" and "Havana." The fruit of Florida and the Western Gulf parishes of Louisiana, when produced under proper care and culture, are invariably larger, of superior flavor, and keep better than either the French, Sicilian, or oranges grown in the West Indies.

In planting out a young orange orchard, no especial preparation is necessary beyond the best of our Northern apple orchard practice. It is better that the land should have been previously cultivated, and at the time in good heart and fine tilth, free from brambles, grass and weeds. It will be advisable also to crop the orchard with some kind of grain or potatoes—taking care not to gall or otherwise injure the young trees—annually, until they come into bearing.

The native oranges of all the Gulf regions are of two varieties—the sour and bitter. The latter is a fair, handsome fruit, growing to an enormous size, but is not edible. The former is a sour “crab,” small, yellow, smooth-skinned, and in its nature more a lime than orange. The trees of either variety are alike suitable for grafting stocks. The propagation may be either by sowing the seed of the native oranges in nurseries, and stock grafting on the young trees in their second year, using grafts of either Sicilian or Havana fruit—both of which may be readily obtained now in any of the Southern orange districts, or by transferring the native trees of larger growth from the woods to the orchard, and adopting the limb practice—setting in among the branches as many scions as a good place can be found for, and when they have begun to make growth, cutting away gradually the native branches. Where early bearing is the object in view, this practice is decidedly preferable to nursery stock, grafting or budding; but the fruit borne by such trees is neither so large or fine flavored, and the scions cut from them, and set on a native stock degenerates, so that by grafting back four times in this way, the fruit is deteriorated into native “sour” and “bitters” again. The grafts cut from a stock-grafted tree put back in like manner, always maintains its integrity, rather improving its fruit up to the third or fourth generation, than otherwise.

The propagation of the orange from seed, grafting, budding, planting out, and after care, are all operations as easily performed as with apple trees, and in nothing so essentially different but that any man who can put out a young apple orchard properly, can inaugurate an orangery just as easily.

The orange tree in Florida and Louisiana, will fruit at about the same age as our apples generally do; for stock grafts say about the fifth year, and the second or third season for limb grafted. But both come to full maximum bearing considerably earlier than the apple tree. At the eighth year limb-grafted trees, having had proper attention, will yield from two to four thousand marketable oranges, the average of an orchard being probably about 2,500. That of the stock grafts about 2,000.

If kept well pruned, which is a requisite of better quality of fruit and prolific bearing, the trees may

be set within twenty feet either way of each other. The trees live to a great age, and if kept pruned and dug about once a year, and fertilized once in three or four, will bear fruit fifty years consecutively. I have seen orange trees near St. Augustine in Florida, and in the Louisiana lower parishes, known to be more than a hundred years old, still bearing profusely, and healthy and vigorous.

As the orange has no unfruitful seasons like the peach and apple, and no inimical insect enemies, subject only to possible chills, or at intervals very infrequent, a nip from Arctic Jack, the crop is a safer and surer one than that of any of our Northern fruits.

Like some varieties of the pear, the orange ripens best after having attained its full size, off the tree. But unlike the pear, it will be very likely to rot before ripening, if placed in the dark. If you would have a green orange ripen its best, place it in the clear, warm sunshine. As the fruit ripens on the tree very unequally as to time, when an orangery once comes into full bearing, there will be picking, boxing, and shipping to market, running through a period of two months.

In conclusion, I would observe that one of these days, when we shall have Florida and Louisiana orange orchards grafted with the famous Mandarin fruit of the provinces of St. Pauls and St. Catharines in Brazil, we shall see in our markets such sweet, seedless, delicious oranges, as no foreign country can send us.

## FARMING IN MICHIGAN.

BY A. B. P.



THE northern and central portions of the peninsula of this State, being almost surrounded by large bodies of water materially affecting the climate, makes it one of the most interesting portions of the Northern States. The laws governing climate, are inoperative, or in a measure reversed here; more especially in the western half, or that portion which is drained into Lake Michigan; so that late spring frosts, which have done much damage in Northern Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, have often not reached as far north as Grand Traverse, which lies on the lake shore some 250 miles north of the south line of the State. The prevailing winds being from west to east, and the current of Lake Michigan

from south to north, make this western portion of this State more affected by these deep, never-freezing oceans, than any other portion of this or of adjoining States; and the effect of this amelioratory influence in mid-winter, has been such, that in January, 1864, while the mercury at Detroit was 24 below 0, at Milwaukee and Chicago, 30; at St. Louis, Mo., 28 1-2, and at Atlanta, Ga., 12 below 0, along this shore, from St. Joseph to Grand Traverse, it was only 10 below 0.

Our summers, from the prevalence of the winds from the water to the west of us, are cool; but the soil being generally dry, and for the most part sandy, vegetation starts early for the latitude, and the autumns peculiarly late and salubrious, there being no frosts the past season to injure grapes till November.

After east winds, however, spring and fall frosts often occur, but generally do less damage here than south, east, or west of us. North of the mouth of Grand River, there has been little cultivation along the shore till within the past five years. The banks of the lake are generally high, uneven, and sandy, and at the mouths of the many tributaries, bare and blowing, so that it is literally true that "a warranty deed will not hold it," and from these causes sailors have given this shore a reputation for barrenness, a bad name, which has kept agricultural settlers aloof, and the tide of emigration has gone around, via Chicago, to the more inviting prairies of Illinois, Wisconsin, and further west. It being a pine country, lumbermen have settled and built mills at all the shipping points, and pine logs are floated down the streams, at the mouths of which they are sawed and shipped direct from the mills to the destitute portions of the great West. This has opened the way to scientific fruit growers and farmers, who have come here for business or pleasure, and have discovered and advertised the adaptation of this lake region for fruit, especially peaches and grapes, which with apples, pears, and the smaller fruits, are being planted all along this eastern shore for 250 miles.

The fine facilities for shipping these delicacies, to the destitute portions of the West, adds much to the value of this region for fruit culture. The soil being generally sandy and dry, the fires which always attend the red man, and follow the lumberman, have burned deep, devouring a large portion of the humus, so that the land so far as general culture is concerned, and until nature has had time to recruit it from the fallen leaves from the undergrowth, is in the condition of the old, worn out, sandy loams of the East and South, and will not pay for the ordinary pioneer culture, which new countries generally receive; and it being covered with logs, stumps, brush, and grubs, the debris of

the lumbermen, to the eye of the eastern money-making farmer, it is not very inviting; but to the scientific fruit grower, who knows that richness of soil is secondary to a genial climate for fruit, and who has faith and money to bestow upon it, and patience to wait a few seasons for the fruiting of his trees and vines, it has made large returns, often \$500 per acre over current expenses. Many, however, of little experience, and impatient to realize, have put out trees and vines, and planted farm crops without due preparation of the ground, and without proper treatment of the plants afterwards, who will be likely to fail of realizing their expectations. For such are intended the remarks that I shall here further make.

The main difficulty with this sandy soil, is its small capacity for the retention of moisture. Soils differ materially in this respect, sandy soils having the least, calcareous and loamy soils next, clay next, and mucky soils the largest of all. I need not, perhaps, say that swamp muck is decayed vegetable matter, analogous to barnyard manure, though generally less rich, the latter containing a portion of animal matter. This soil is sufficiently rich in all the mineral elements of plants, as is proven by the plants we raise when we have an abundance of rain. What we need, then, for the successful production of farm crops is, to supply moisture. Irrigation is too expensive, and not generally to be thought of; but by the incorporation and thorough mixture of vegetable matter, in the shape of barnyard manure, swamp muck, plowing in of green crops, and even sawdust, where accessible, we accomplish the same result. Deep plowing and frequent summer cultivation have a wonderful effect to supply moisture, even more than any one without trial will believe. Corn, being a gross feeder, does not prosper here without manure. The same may be said of oats, except on lowish land. Potatoes and turnips do well as a first and second crop without manure, if the season be favorable, and are thoroughly cultivated through the summer. Winter wheat and rye, making much of their growth during the wet part of the season, are sure as a first crop without manure, if the land be broken up deep and thoroughly harrowed. The straw will be short, but bright and stiff, and the crop, not large, but plump and heavy. I have seen a crop of winter wheat on new land, broken up in September, not over twenty inches high, produce ten bushels per acre among stumps, and was ready for harvest the third day of July. Among so many stumps as we have, it is difficult to break up with a large team and plow. I have found it better economy to first cut out all the small grubs of one inch and less diameter, with a grub hoe, and pull out the larger ones with a grub hook and a pair of oxen. I use



an iron forked hook, weighing about twenty pounds, with a wooden handle. When the grubs are all out, one stout pair of oxen, with a light plow, will break it up ten to twelve inches deep. Such plowing will generally leave the furrow on its edge, which is no objection if you give it a thorough harrowing.

If you design the land for farm crops, you can then sow with winter grain, or spring wheat, or rye; if you sow early, from the 20th of March to the 15th of April, so that considerable growth can be made before the drouth that we usually have in June. If designed for fruit, it is best to plant with potatoes, in rows 8 1-2 to 4 feet each way, and work thoroughly through the summer with a horse hoe cultivator. It is not best to plant fruit, especially apples, pears, grapes, and the small fruits, till the soil has been thoroughly mixed up, and its wild nature in a measure tamed. For peaches it is not so essential; they always seem to thrive in new lands better than other fruits; besides, there is no advantage in urging their growth; when that is but moderate, they are always less affected by extremes of temperature. There is little doubt that we have less rain than falls in the interior. This is favorable to grapes, and is no detriment in our deep soil to tree fruits, after the first season.

Lest I should be thought "too sectional," I will add that the eastern and southern portions of this State are well adapted to the culture of all the grains, especially winter wheat, which, when not devoured by insects, succeeds well on all dry, well cultivated land. Apples, pears, plums, cherries, and all small fruits, and in many sections peaches and grapes succeed well. Our fruit generally, will not suffer in comparison with any adjoining State.

### FARMING IN PENNSYLVANIA.

BY R. L. RICH.



THE system of farming practiced in Pennsylvania does not differ materially from that of the adjacent States, though the great variety of soil contained within its limits, makes it necessary, in order to attain the best results, to pursue somewhat different methods in different sections. The rough, hard, and comparatively barren soil of the hills, with which some portions are so thickly studded, requires different culture from the rich alluvial lands which

compose a large proportion of the southern and eastern parts of the State, the agriculture of which will be more especially treated of in this instance, since it is that with which the writer is most familiar.

The mixed system is that which is generally in use here, since it is the one which has been found by experience, the best adapted to the ends for which farming as a business is pursued, for the reason that should the crop of any particular kind fail, or be injured by drouth, insects, or other unforeseen and unavoidable causes, there will be others, maturing at different times, or not affected by the same causes, for the culturist to rely upon. It also admits of a rotation of crops, without which no culture can be successfully followed for any length of time.

The principal productions of the soil cultivated are wheat, corn, oats, rye, and potatoes, in all parts of the State; wheat and corn being most largely grown. Barley, buckwheat and sorghum are also raised quite largely in some districts.

The five-year rotation is that which has been most generally adopted, as follows: first year, corn and potatoes on sod ground; second year, either oats, potatoes, corn, barley, sorghum, or wheat; third year, wheat, and if on land devoted to wheat the preceding year, is now seeded to grass; fourth year, wheat seeded down to grass, timothy, and clover in about equal quantities, which is cut for hay, or pastured the following year. Barn yard manure is applied on corn ground, usually in the fall, or in spring just before plowing. Lime, ashes, plaster, poudrette, and other artificial manures, are also used. The quantity of corn raised per acre on good soil, varies from forty to ninety bushels, according to the season, and the care bestowed in cultivation. It is usually cut and put in shocks, where it is allowed to remain several weeks before husking.

A greater breadth of wheat is cultivated than of any other grain, usually about one-third of the arable land on a farm. This crop, as well as the grass, is cut by machinery wherever the surface will admit of a machine being used. Rye is raised principally for the straw, which is used for binding the corn shocks, corn fodder, &c., an acre or two being amply sufficient for the needs of the farmer in this respect. Oats are raised quite largely, on account of their great value as food for horses. This crop is considered "hard on the land;" this is no doubt the case in some degree, though by following corn on ground that has been well manured for that crop, they can be raised without exhausting the soil. Barley is now raised in some sections, instead of oats. Potatoes are cultivated to a considerable extent in districts convenient to a market; in other sections the

quantity raised is limited to the amount required for consumption on the farm. A moderate amount of sorghum sirup is made.

Fruit culture has of late become quite an important branch of industry, but it has not yet received the attention its importance demands from the people in general. With many it is still confined to the raising of a few apples and small fruits, and the picking of such as may chance to grow wild in their immediate locality. The success of a few, however, who have been largely engaged in the business, will no doubt stimulate others to follow; there is no reason why every farmer should not raise a plentiful supply, at least for his own family, but reasons why he should, as the soil, especially of the eastern parts of the State, as well as favored localities in other sections, is well adapted to the growing of all the fruits of this climate. Cabbages and garden truck generally, are raised in large quantities where facilities for marketing are enjoyed.

There is much good stock in Pennsylvania; also much that is very inferior. The farm horses in general are good; the heavy draft horses in particular, being among the finest in the Union. There are also many fine blooded animals in various sections of the State. The dairy is an important interest in the south-eastern section, large quantities of milk and butter being sent to the Philadelphia and other markets. Cows are raised in considerable numbers, it being the practice of most farmers to renew their herds in this manner, and also to supply the large dairies. These are mostly of the "native" breed, though there are some of the improved breeds, mostly Durhams, and a few Alderneys and Devons. Sheep are raised to some extent. Hog breeding is made a specialty by some, and some of the finest animals of their kind are to be found here.

The stock is kept well housed in the large barns, which form a distinguishing feature of our State. Large numbers of cattle and sheep are annually brought from the West, and fattened through the winter for the eastern markets. It is in this way that we are enabled to turn our grain and hay to the best account, in the remunerative prices we generally receive for the cattle when fat, and in the large addition of most valuable fertilizing material made to the heap of barn yard manure on which we mainly depend to keep up the fertility of our farms. Lime is also much used as a fertilizer; it is generally applied on corn, or wheat ground, before putting in the seed, at the rate of forty to sixty bushels to the acre.

Land sells at \$50 to \$300 per acre; even at the latter figure it can be profitably cultivated, as by a proper system it can be heavily cropped, and the

fertility still be maintained, and even increased; this our best farmers have, in more than one instance, demonstrated.

## FARMING IN ILLINOIS.

BY "W. H. C."



FARMING in Illinois assumes a wide range. All that natural pastures and meadows of the greatest richness and inexhaustible productiveness can do for the growth of stock of all kinds, has been done. These facilities are there occupied and unoccupied in inexhaustible measure. All that a soil of marvelous fertility, "ready cleared" for the plowman, can afford to the grain producer, is supplied in those unbounded sections of rolling prairie. For the fruit grower Southern Illinois offers unparalleled inducements, while Northern Illinois and all Wisconsin furnish an ever hungry market. The farming lands suffer generally much greater inconvenience from the absence than the abundance of timber. In short, there are no lands encumbered with timber which should ever be cultivated. On the contrary, timber should be and is very generally cultivated, or its growth and increase encouraged on the large prairies.

The farming of Illinois, with many of the other Western States, can hardly be said to have settled into a mode or system. The new settler chooses whether to devote his energies to cattle, wool, or grain growing, or may combine all these. There are farmers who produce mainly horses, and all grain growing, and other farming operations are secondary—the horse being the marketable commodity sought. Others produce in like manner mules—others cattle, hogs, sheep, &c. Some grow cattle; others make *fattening* their business, producing large fields of corn annually which are consumed by cattle purchased for that purpose. All alike find the soil of Illinois equal to their fullest demands; the only drawbacks are the well understood lack of timber for fencing and winter protection.

In local characteristics, the topography of this State does less toward modifying the farming than the population. Southern and much of Central Illinois, was settled by emigrants from Kentucky or Southern Indiana, who were themselves descendants of emigrants from slave States. Hence the system

practiced by localities thus settled is widely diverse from that of the northern counties.

The breeds of cattle, horses, and especially swine, exhibit a marked difference in different localities. This is also true of the family mansion and its surroundings. While the "Hoosic" home frequently gives evidence of an eye mainly to profit, growth and increase, with little regard to neatness or beauty of surroundings, the more northern home is very generally embellished with trees, shrubbery, and flowers.

Of winter wheat, Illinois, south of Bloomington, is productive; north, spring wheat is mainly cultivated. The beautiful meadows of northern Illinois produce in large quantities the excellent timothy or herds grass seed of commerce.

To the summer traveler this State presents many of the characteristics of an immense garden. Its freedom from obstacles to cultivation, its general fertility, the universal abundance and beauty of the flowers, the luxuriant verdure—all combine to give the passenger of a railroad journey across these prairie seas an idea of extravagant plenty, and yet undeveloped abundance undreamed of among the haunts of busy, close, consuming Eastern, either producing or consuming population.

In population, Illinois is mainly American, especially the farming community. Although in habits, manners, and farm management the people evidence a wide range of birth, yet they are mainly the children of our own States. The habits of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and other States, modified to suit altered circumstances, are found in Illinois, as in the home land. The result of such a growth will be the production of a New England in the West—an Empire State in wealth and population, and Pennsylvania in solid, substantial progress.

### HOP PLANTING.

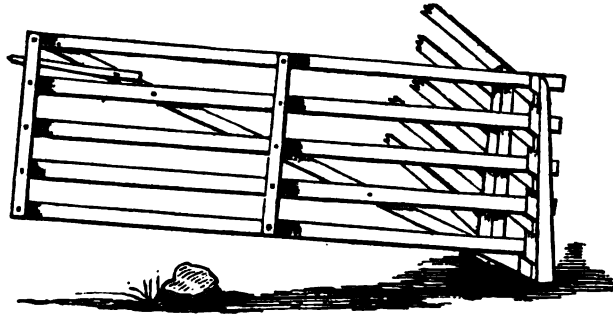
We find the following endorsement of Collins' Method of Hop Planting in *The South-Eastern Gazette*, (England.) Commenting on a meeting of hop planters to consider the question, it says:—"Among our agricultural intelligence to-day will be found a report of a meeting of hop planters held at Brenchley, to consider the plan of training hops on strings. We have devoted more space to the subject than we should otherwise have done, from the fact that this is the first meeting at which it has been publicly discussed, and the plan fairly laid before the English growers. As we noticed some time since, the system thus brought under consideration was patented in 1863, by Mr. Collins, an American planter, and differs from the ordinary mode of growing hops in the fact that only one short pole or stake is used to each hill, the tops of

the poles being connected by strings, along which the hops are trained in a horizontal direction. The chief purpose of its introduction is to effect a saving in the cost of poles; but the patentee also asserts that hops grown on this principle, from giving free access to sun and air, are less liable to disease; that the yield is greater and the quality better; while the labor in picking and tending is less than by any other method. These, of course, are points to be decided by practical tests; but there is one ground on which the advantages of this plan would appear obvious, namely, that there is no bleeding of the bine when the crop is gathered. Every grower knows what injury is often done from the premature cutting of the bine—that is to say, before it has had time to fulfil its natural function in the storing up of sap for the next year's growth; but by Mr. Collin's system this evil is wholly avoided, it being necessary merely to loosen the strings to admit of the hops being picked. Any plan which promises to lessen the expense of poles must also be of importance to the growers, as this now forms one of the most serious items in their expenditure. For these reasons we shall be happy to publish the results of any trials which may be made on this new system, in the forthcoming season. One great recommendation is, that it can be tried on a small scale, side by side with hops grown on poles, without the risk attaching to more costly experiments." The above system has not been tried to any very great extent in England until recently, but all "hop growers" that have devoted from one to three or more acres to this method, speak in the highest terms of it, a result of which is that the coming season a large number of hop growers will try the horizontal plan, and if they find it to their interest a much larger area will be devoted to it in after years.

### FAIRS FOR 1867.

American Pomological Socy	St. Louis	Sept. 11-14
California		Sept. 9-14
Canada	Kingston	Sept. 23
Illinois	Quincy	Sept. 25-30
Indiana	Terra Haute	St. 30-Oct. 3
Iowa	Clinton	Sept. 24-27
Kentucky, (Tobacco Fair)	Louisville	July 2, 3
Kansas	Lawrence	Sept. 24
Maryland	Baltimore	Oct. 29-31
Massachusetts		
Minnesota	Rochester	Oct. 1-4
Michigan	Detroit	Sept. 10-15
Missouri		
National Horse Fair		
New England Fair		
New Hampshire	Providence	
New York	Buffalo	Oct. 1
Ohio	Dayton	Sept. 23-26
Oregon		
Pennsylvania	Norristown	
Wisconsin	Madison	Sept. 23-27
Vermont	Brattleboro	Sept. 10-13

A soil should be open to the action of the atmosphere, friable, and not liable to bake or harden.



EXCELSIOR FARM GATE.

THIS gate is designed especially to meet the wants of farmers. It is claimed to possess all the good points required in a farm gate without being encumbered with the bad ones, which will make the gate a favorite among farmers. It is made to lock in with a board fence, so as to require no other hinges, and forms part of the fence. Therefore its cost is but a trifle more than a panel of fence, not exceeding 25 cents on a plain fence. No gate can be cheaper, as every farmer can make his own. It is very simple in construction, and not liable to get out of order. It can be made self-shutting or not, at the option of the builder, and can be made to open and shut without getting out of a carriage, or off from horseback at a slight extra cost. This gate is easily raised so as to swing over snow drifts, and is in no way injured by so doing. Patented, May, 1866, by A. G. Barnard, of Ohio. Agents wanted to canvass all parts of the State of New York. For further information, address,

H. B. NORTON, No. 10 Baker's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

### CASHMERE GOATS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY A. H. FRING.

MANY persons are afraid to breed and raise Cashmere goats, for fear they may prove troublesome in climbing fences, getting into their own and other people's grain fields, young orchards, &c., and so causing much trouble and vexation. A man remarked to me not long since, that he had heard that the only way these goats could be kept from jumping, was to set up a couple of planks against the fence, and let them walk over. To all who are holding back on account of the above reasons, I would say as far as my experience goes, that they are not any more troublesome to keep in an enclosure than sheep, if the following directions are obeyed:

1. If you have a good common plank fence around the field, they will never trouble you; or, if you wish to keep them in with a common worm fence, all that is necessary is to build your corners strait two-thirds of the way up, and let them lean in towards the goats the other third.
- 2d. Trim their feet once in three or four months. If your fence is poor, cut off the rim portion of their hoofs which grows inwards and enables them to secure a foothold when attempting to climb.
3. Make them a shelter of some kind where they can run into in time of rain, as they do not like to get wet.
4. Give them plenty to eat—bushes, grass, hay, straw, a little grain occasionally, almost anything, as they appear to be satisfied with the coarsest fair imaginable.
5. Let them have free access to good water,

and salt once a week, mixing in a little sulphur occasionally to prevent lice. If the above directions are followed, my word for it you will have the most contented and profitable animals that beautify a farm. The Cashmere goats, both male and female, have none of that unpleasant odor which belongs to the common goat. As to breeding, grading up from the common goat, &c., I will give my experience, if desired, in a future number of *THE AMERICAN FARMER*.

REMARKS.—With the above communication we received from our esteemed correspondent a beautiful specimen of wool from the Cashmere goat, which can be seen at our office. These samples are very fine and beautiful, having the delicate, fleecy appearance and texture of silk, and to the uninformed might easily pass for that material. It is certainly a very superior article, and if, as now appears to be the case, the stock can be raised profitably and successfully, and a remunerative market found—it will prove a new source of wealth, and enable us to compete with Eastern nations in the manufacture of the finest wool fabrics. We shall be pleased to hear from our correspondent and others in detail on this interesting subject, and would also refer to articles on the Cashmere goat, &c., p. 109, of *THE AMERICAN FARMER* for April.—Eds.

It is estimated that the agricultural productions of California, for the year 1865, amounted to upwards of \$84,000,000. This has nearly all been accomplished since 1848.

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Preventive against the Turnip Fly.**

*The North British Agriculturist* gives the following methods for prevention or mitigation of damage from the turnip fly: "Various methods have been suggested to prevent the attacks of the turnip fly when the plants are newly braided. Steeping the seed in oil, and afterwards dusting the seed with sulphur preparatory to sowing, has been found to be of considerable service. There is, however, a still more certain method of prevention. Newly-slacked lime, strewn thinly along the rut made by the seed-coulter of the sowing machine at the time of the braiding the plants, proves a protection. We have also found a mixture of lime and soot very effectual in protecting the young plants as they put out the first leaves. When a small quantity of white turnip seed is sown in the hollows of the drills, the insects resort to the white turnip plants, preferring them to the Swede. This method of protecting the latter is more expensive than top-dressing the seed rows with lime previous to the braiding of the plants. After the rough leaves are formed, little damage is caused by the turnip fly, but other insects feed on the leaves, the black beetle being the most common. The most effectual means to combat all insects is to push forward the growth of the plants by manures applied at the time the seed is sown, and after the plants come up to stir the surface frequently, but without injury to the turnip plants."

**Wash for Fruit Trees.**

*The Massachusetts Flowerman* gives us this:—Take a pint of crude petroleum, and a gallon and a half of soft soap. Mix intimately, and let the mixture stand till the whole is intimately blended, and then dissolve in twenty gallons of water. It is perfectly safe on trees, and it will extirpate all kinds of insects that infest them where it comes in contact with them.

**Preserving Flowers Fresh.**

Take a deep plate, into which pour a quantity of clear water. Set a vase of flowers upon the plate, and over the vase set a bell-glass with its rim in the water. The air that surrounds the flowers being confined beneath the bell-glass, is constantly moist with water, that rises into it in the form of vapor. As fast as the water becomes condensed it runs down the side of the bell-glass into the dish; and if means be taken to enclose the water on the outside of the bell-glass, so as to prevent it evaporating into the air of the sitting-room, the atmosphere around the flowers is continually damp. The plan is designated the "Hopean apparatus." The experiment may be tried on a small scale by inverting a tumbler over a rose-bud in a saucer of water.

**Abortion in Cows.**

Mr. Lyman B. Sanford writes to the New York Farmers' Club that while in Canada lately, he paid an English farmer ten dollars for a secret remedy for the disease in cows of abortion, which was simply to feed with salt for each one about a tablespoonful of bone, pounded or ground to dust. As a result, in a dairy of thirty-three cows, he had lost none, while his neighbors' herds were as badly afflicted as ever.

**Galloways.**

An eminent English herdsman whose authority is unquestionable, thus writes of the Scottish Galloways: "Small, harmless, hornless, docile and hardy animals; color dark brown or black, flesh of fine grain and quality—milk moderate in quantity, but excessively rich—almost cream as it flows from the udder, the milking period being considerably longer than with any of our favorite Southern breeds. In ability to endure severe winter weather unsheltered, the Galloways have no equals, and in capacity for maintaining a supply of milk and themselves in good heart and condition, they are excelled only by the Irish Kerries."

**The Theory of Drainage in a Nut-Shell.**

The draining away of superabundant water, especially upon stiff soils, has always been the chief difficulty in English agriculture. Hitherto the means employed for getting rid of it were imperfect. Now, however, the problem is completely solved. "Take this flower pot," said the president of a meeting in France lately: "what is the meaning of this small hole at the bottom? To renew the water. And why to renew the water? Because it gives life or death: life, when it is made only to pass through the bed of earth, for it leaves with the soil its productive principles, and renders soluble the nutritive properties destined to nourish the plant; death, on the other hand, when it remains in the pot, for it soon becomes putrid, and rots the roots, and also prevents new water from penetrating." The theory of drainage is exactly described in this figure.—*Rural Economy of England, Scotland, and Ireland.*

**Chester White Hog.**

J. D. Porter, of Warren county, Ill., gives *The Prairie Farmer* the following description of this breed of swine:—1st. They are very quiet and docile. 2d. They are well covered with soft white hair which inclines to be curly—never having bristles; an occasional black spot is not proof positive (as some argue) that the animal is not a pure Chester, but is an exception to the general rule. The head is short and chubby, with ears that hang forward after two or three months old, but the ears are not very long. The legs short and good size, the body long, but never lank; the hams large and square, the shoulders very broad. The body extends up to the head, and never has that slender thin neck which is so objectionable in many hogs, especially the Byfield and Magie. The Chester is always in good order, if fed even moderately, and fit to slaughter at any age if well fed, but will grow until very large if kept; they have frequently been made to weigh eight and nine hundred pounds when dressed.

**Test of the Ripeness of Grain.**

From Jackson's *Agriculture and Dairy Husbandry*, we extract the following test of the ripeness of grain, (wheat, barley, and oats,) for harvesting:—The ripeness of grain is shown by the straw assuming the golden color from the bottom of the straw nearly to the ear; or when the ear begins to droop gently, the wheat may be cut. Although the straw may be green from the ear for some distance down the stem, yet, if it be quite yellow at the bottom, and for some distance

upwards, the grain requires no further nourishment from the earth, and if properly harvested will not shrink.

#### Training the Tomato.

It does not pay to let the tomato vines trail on the ground. The fruit decays and does not ripen. Brush, cut fine and placed under the plants before they lop over, is a clean, cheap and excellent support. The vines may be tied to a single stake, if pains are taken to pinch off the side branches and lead up a central shoot. This is a French method, and is said to be successful. Trellises of various forms will suggest themselves to every tomato grower. A pile of stone laid around the plant would be excellent, for it would keep the fruit and also radiate a good deal of heat to the plant. The tomato is a native of torrid climates and requires heat. The stone-pile would admit of the plant taking a natural growth. Grass, straw, or boards will answer—at any rate put something under the vines to preserve the fruit. A small shrub, having many limbs, may be stuck into the ground by the side of a plant, and it will afford a good support—*Farmer's Home Journal*.

#### Beet Root Sugar in France.

The Paris correspondent of *The Economist* says:—A return just issued, shows that the quantity of beet root sugar made in France from the 1st of September, 1865, to the 1st September, 1866, (the beet root year,) was 274,514 tons—an increase of 125,000 tons over the production of the preceding year. In 1863-4, the make was 108,466 tons. The quantity taken for consumption in 1865-6 direct from the factories, was 11,713 tons, and from the entrepôts 125,081, the two together being 117,605 more than in the year before. In addition to these there were sent to foreign countries, 41,850 tons from the factories, 5,094 from the entrepôts—an increase for the two of 41,500 tons. These figures prove that the progress beet root is making is formidable, and that foreign and colonial sugar will, in all probability, before long, find difficulty in maintaining their place in the market.

#### • Wool.

*The Mark Lane Express* says the value of the sheep and lambs' wool imported into Great Britain in the first eight months of this year, was £11,961,385, as compared with £9,939,739 in the corresponding period of 1865, and £10,215,623 in the corresponding period of 1864. The payments for Australian sheep and lamb's wool to August 31st, this year, were £8,433,338, as compared with £7,136,728 and £6,362,807 in the corresponding periods of 1865 and 1864. The amount paid for Australian wool has thus made a great stride this year, having been at the rate of no less than £1,050,000 per month. Alapaca and Llama wool was also imported to August 31, this year, to the value of £505,719, as compared with £170,759 in 1865, and £187,410 in 1864 corresponding periods.

#### What is Progressive Agriculture?

The New York *Observer* answers this question in a few words, but very comprehensively, as follows:—Under its influence might spring tasty and convenient dwellings, adorned with shrubs and flowers, and beau-

tiful within with the smiles of happy wives, tidy children in the lap of thoughtful age—broad hearts and acts, as well as words of welcome. Progressive agriculture builds barns and puts gutters on them, builds stables for cattle, and raises roots to feed them. It grafts wild apple trees by the meadow with pippins or greenings; it sets out new orchards and takes care of the old ones. It drains low lands, cuts down bushes, buys a mower, houses tools and wagons, keeps good fences, and practices soiling. It makes hens lay, chickens live, and prevents swine from rooting up meadows. Progressive agriculture keeps on hand plenty of dry fuel, and brings in the oven wood for the women. It plows deeply, sows plentifully, harrows evenly, and prays for the blessings of heaven.

#### Poultry House for Six Varieties.

"C. M. S." in *The Country Gentleman*, gives the following plan for a poultry house for six varieties of fowls. He says:—First my location is such that my poultry house faces east and south—the building is 38 feet long, ten feet in width. The height of the front is ten feet—height of rear seven feet—divided into six apartments—boarded up from the bottom three feet, and then slatted to the roof. The roof pitches one way—boarded with match boards and well battened. The front is boarded up three feet from the bottom, and each apartment has a large sliding window, with slats on the inside—each end has a slide window—on the east end an entrance door—and so through each division on the inside. The flooring is gravel. In the rear of the building is a small slide door for fowls to pass out into yards. Roost on the side of partition, three feet high. Cost of lumber here is \$25 per M—labor of carpenters \$3 per day. Total cost of house, \$150, and will be satisfactory to one of the oldest breeders.

#### Cantaloupes.

When the fruit becomes the size of a fist, place under each one a piece of slate, or a piece of shingle will answer. This keeps the melon from contact with the ground, and will prevent the ground from extracting the flavor from any portion of it, as is generally the case with water melons and cantaloupes which we buy in the markets, as we all know. For private domestic use the little trouble which this protection gives is repaid a hundredfold in the excellence of the flavor of the fruit, and we think causes them to mature earlier.—*Germantown Tel.*

#### Worth Knowing.

An exchange says a poison of any conceivable description and degree of potency, which has been swallowed, intentionally or by accident, may be rendered instantly harmless by swallowing two gills of sweet oil. An individual with a very strong constitution should take twice the quantity. This oil will neutralize every form of vegetable or mineral poison with which physicians and chemists are acquainted.

#### Setting Hens.

Says an exchange, when hens incline to set, and you do not wish them to, place them in a large coop for a week, and they will usually commence laying again.

## Horticultural.

### THE GARDEN.

THE fervid heat of a July sun now pours down upon us, and the gardener, to keep cool, must be active, so that the perspiration flow freely, thus cooling the system, and averting the danger of sun-stroke. Consequently, he must so arrange his work as to perform the less active labor, such as weeding in the morning and evening, and during the heat of the day use the hoe, rake, or spade. It is surprising what a high degree of heat man is capable of enduring, provided he can keep up the perspiration.

Some planting and sowing, and much transplanting, can be done this month.

*Asparagus*.—After cutting has ceased, the weeds should be removed, and a light dressing of fine manure applied.

*Beets*.—Early Blood Turnip sown early in the month, would be likely to attain a good growth by winter.

*Beans*.—Limas, and other pole beans, need attention to see that they are winding around the poles, and tying with a soft twine. We suppose all gardeners have observed that beans wind around contrary to the sun.

*Cabbage and Cauliflower*.—The first of July is a good time to transplant for winter use.

*Celery*.—May yet be transplanted, as you would cabbage on the surface, in rows 4 feet apart for tall, and 8 feet for dwarf kinds, 8 to 10 inches in rows, and in trenches the same distance.

*Cucumbers*.—May be sown for pickles, either in hills or drills. Use plenty of seed, so as to have some to spare for the bugs.

*Melons*.—Keep a bright lookout for bugs; thin out to 3 or 4 in a hill. Three or four good large melons only, can be ripened on one vine.

*Peas*.—Clear off old vines, throwing them to the pigs to glean any scattering peas, and plant late crops in their places.

*Potatoes*.—A low, flat hill, is best, and weeds should be kept out by hand culture, after it is too late to cultivate.

*Tomatoes*.—Hoe often, watch for the tomato worm, pick off and kill him. You can soon trace the insect by his droppings under the vine.

*Turnips*.—Ruta Baga and Sweet Russia cannot be sown too soon. The Yellow Aberdeen should soon follow, and the Red-Top Strap Leaf may be deferred until the latter part of the month. We prefer sowing all varieties in drills, about 18 inches apart, where they can be thinned and weeded. It should always be borne in mind that all vegetables should be kept clean, and growing rapidly, by weeding and stirring the soil, as long as it can be done without injury to the tops. Weeds cannot grow among useful plants without robbing them of a portion of their food and drink.

**GRAFTING WAX THAT WILL NOT MELT OR CRACK.**—Take one pound tallow, two pounds beeswax, and four pounds rosin; melt together; pour into cold water, and when cold enough to handle pull it till white. Put in cold.

### THE FRUIT GARDEN.

*Strawberries*.—Before the month is past, the strawberries will be picked, and then the vines should be turned under, or prepared for next year's crop. If it be the design of the gardener to raise more than one crop from a bed, it is well to cut off the tops, clean out the weeds and dead plants, and apply a dressing of fine manure to enable them to make a strong growth. Many intelligent horticulturists consider it best to grow but one crop from a bed, alleging that they can grow but one *maximum* crop from the same bed, and therefore that it is better to plant a new bed every season to take the place of the old one. We think it quite as easy to plant a new bed, as to clean out an old one, and if we get larger returns from it, of course it is the better policy to grow but one crop from a bed.

*Raspberries*.—Will be in the height of their season this month, and if there be any surplus, they are good to can, and the black varieties are most excellent dried. After they are through bearing, the sooner the old canes are cut out the better.

*Blackberries*.—If the new canes are growing too tall, pinch out the terminal bud.

Watch the dwarf pears, and give shape by pinching off those branches disposed to grow out of shape.

### CULTIVATION OF PARLOR PLANTS.

EXTRACT FROM LECTURES DELIVERED TO THE LADIES AT THE TRACT FEMALE INSTITUTE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM WEBSTER.

THIS Camellia, which I now introduce to your notice, is an ordinary plant. It does not exhibit any of the characteristics of a well grown one, but is an average specimen of such as are usually seen in small conservatories attached to dwellings. The plant is in moderate health, and may with proper care, produce quite a number of flowers next winter.

When Camellias are treated as parlor plants, great care should be taken to keep the leaves in a healthy condition; dust should never be allowed to accumulate on them, but they should be frequently sponged with clear tepid water.

To succeed in growing the Camellia well, there are certain prerequisites, of which it would be well for every lady who cultivates flowers to inform herself. First, that the soil is such as is most congenial to the growth of the plant. Second, that the drainage of the pot is perfect. Third, that the temperature of the room in which it is placed, is even, and approximates that degree in which it is known to flourish best. Fourth, that no attention shall be omitted during the formation of the flower buds.

The soil in which a camellia delights to grow should be composed of well rotted, loamy sods, leaf mold, and a little clean beach sand. The sods should be chopped into small pieces, say one inch square, and the leaf mold and sand mixed thoroughly with it. No manure should be mixed with the soil at the time of potting, for the reason that manure used in this way is injurious, although it can be applied in another form,



while the plant is in a growing state, which I will explain presently as I proceed with my lecture. We will suppose that you are about to commence with plants that have been sent to you from some distant florist—that the plants have arrived by express, packed in moss after they are taken from the pots (which is the usual mode of packing), in all probability the size of the pots required for this purpose will be what are known as 6-inch pots, namely 6 inches in diameter. This, however, depends upon the size of the plant; one size larger than the one in which it was grown, will be large enough. In potting, place three or four potsherds over the hole in the pot; then over this place a layer of charcoal, say from a quarter to half an inch in size; then over this a thin layer of moss. This will secure perfect drainage.

The ball of earth which surrounds the plant should be disturbed as little as possible. This should be placed in the center of the pot, and as high as the position it occupied in the old one—and the space between the ball and the pot should be filled with the compost I have recommended, worked in with a stick. In nurseries where Camellias are grown, the shifting or repotting usually takes place just after the young wood has hardened, but I have repotted them successfully at any time between this period and the bursting of the blossom buds, which rarely takes place much before Christmas. As repotting is performed during warm weather, the plants may be removed to a shady place in the open air. They should be well watered after potting, and the foliage be frequently syringed or watered all over with a sprinkler from a watering pot. If the plants are large enough to bloom, and there are any indications of blossom buds, they will scarcely require any more water than the syringing I have mentioned. Too much water at this stage is positively injurious; but after the blossom buds are formed, and the plant is near its period of blooming, then the quantity of water may be increased, and as the buds expand, the plant should be watered with liquid manure at least once a week. This, however, is a critical period, as too little water or an excess of it, would cause the buds to fall off prematurely. Syringing at this time should be dispensed with, but the leaves may be frequently sponged with clear soft water.

This plant, like others which I have mentioned, has its period of rest, and during this time all that is necessary, is to keep it in a temperature between 50° and 60°, and in a situation where air can be admitted occasionally, if not frequently, and have sufficient water given to retain the leaves in a healthy state.

The Camellia may be propagated either from seeds or cuttings, and by grafting or inarching. As the process of raising the plants from seed is rather slow, it is seldom practised by amateurs, but is chiefly resorted to by nurserymen for the purpose of raising new varieties. If you desire to raise plants from cuttings, the proper time for this purpose is the latter part of July or August. The young wood should be well ripened, and firm at the base. In preparing the cutting, the lower part should be cut very smooth with a sharp knife, and have two or three of the lower leaves cut

away. It is then ready for planting in pots, filled with about three-fourths of compost, and the balance clear lake sand.

The cutting should be inserted about two inches in depth; the pot when filled should be thoroughly watered, to settle the sand well around the cuttings, after which they should be covered with a hand glass, and placed where gentle heat can be applied, and kept shaded for three or four months, or even longer, until such time as roots are formed, and they are fitted for transferring to small pots.

One kind of grafting which I have practised very successfully, is that called *la greffe des Belges*, or the Belgian graft, which is the simplest and best adapted for amateurs of any that I know of, except inarching. I have usually performed this operation in September, by taking a healthy, well-grown stock of the single red, and cutting out a piece from the side about one inch in length, with but a small portion of wood attached—then by cutting off the top of the stock, leaving but one leaf and bud above the side cut. I then select a scion from the variety which I wish to propagate; this is cut to fit exactly the incision on the side of the stock. The two are then bound closely and firmly together with a string of bark. I then lay the pot or pots on their sides on the bottom of a close frame, the glass of which having previously been covered on the under side with a composition of lime and linseed oil to render the interior opaque—where they are to remain until the weather becomes so cold as to necessitate their removal to the greenhouse, or indoors. The only care to be observed while in the frame, is to see that they are kept close and occasionally watered.

Inarching, or grafting by approach, is very simple, and is a method which undoubtedly suggested itself to the earliest cultivators, from the fact that trees are frequently found in natural forests that have become firmly united by the branches crossing each other, which during some heavy gale of wind has caused an abrasion of the bark, and in consequence of which a union takes place. In this mode of grafting, namely, inarching, the pots containing the stock and scion are placed close together, so that by cutting a cleft in the stock and a tongue in the scion, the two may be brought into immediate contact and bound firmly together with bark, and the ligature covered with grafting wax, as is the case in the ordinary modes of grafting. The plants remain in this condition until a perfect union is secured. This kind of grafting should be performed in March or April, and the period usually taken to complete the union is about six months. When all doubt as to the union is removed, the scion is separated from the parent plant, and the head of the stock is cut off just above the graft. The advantages of this mode are first, that it is so simple that it can be performed by any lady; second, that it can be done without risk or injury to either of the plants; third, that it may be performed in a dwelling as well as in a greenhouse—the only care necessary, is to see that the plants are well shaded and liberally watered, but not excessively, and the leaves kept free from dust.

## THE PEACH TREE AND ITS DISEASES.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY AUGUSTUS SINTERHORN,  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

THE almost hopeless expectation of successfully cultivating the peach in many portions of the Northern States, where it has formerly been a tolerably sure crop, invests any effort to remedy the evil with a special interest to all lovers and cultivators of this fine fruit. Notwithstanding all that has been written, no remedy has yet been devised which is of general and successful application in the prevention of "winter-kill" in our peach trees. In fact, the cause of the trouble has not to a certainty been demonstrated. It is generally supposed that the sudden and violent fluctuations in the atmosphere, and extreme periods of cold, are the immediate agents in the destruction of the fruit buds. This, perhaps, may be true as a partial explanation, but it does not account for the whole difficulty, for the following reasons: peach trees in this latitude "winter-kill" at a temperature of about 10° to 12° below zero. But there are exceptional cases to this, even; for we have known seasons in which the mercury has fallen to a lower figure, and the trees remained uninjured. Again, it frequently happens that our trees "winter-kill" badly in seasons when the mercury does not descend to the above figure. These facts prove that a given degree of extreme cold, say 10° or 12° is not an undeviating cause of the evil, as many suppose. Our coldest period in this city during the past winter was 10° below zero, on the night of December 21st. According to the above rule we might expect to hear that the fruit buds were all destroyed; but at this writing we find on diligent inquiry in various parts of Western New York, that some trees and orchards are unfruitful, others in partial bearing, and some promise a full crop—and this occurs in localities near each other, and is true more or less all over the State. Why is it, that there is this diversity in results, under climatic influences affecting all alike? Peach trees exposed to the amellorating influence of Lake Ontario, planted in a warm, sandy loam, so natural to the peach, are in some instances affected, while in the cooler and drier atmosphere and heavier soil of the upper Genesee valley many trees are in bearing. Again, we hear of hill-side orchards which are fruitful, and in adjoining low land "winter-killed," and *vice versa*. And so in relation to exposed locations and those sheltered by timber belts. In the previous season of 1866, the same anomalous condition of facts presented themselves. While in Monroe county the trees generally failed, Orleans county adjoining us on the west, and portions of Wayne on the east, gave an abundant crop.

These results, which to a greater or less extent are true of past years, show conclusively, to our mind, that the falling of the mercury to 10° or 12° below zero does not arbitrarily destroy the fruit buds, though it may occasionally do so under certain unfavorable accompaniments; that a much less degree of cold, accompanied by sudden and violent alternations of heat and cold, will produce "winter-kill;" and that

under these different circumstances, the effects are rarely uniform in a given amount of territory exposed to the same conditions of climate and culture. In proof of this, we allude to the fact that whatever section of our peach-growing country returns a "failure of the crop," which in main may be true, we invariably find a per centage of production of one-half, one-quarter, or perhaps even less; but very seldom an entire failure.

It is the statement of our pioneers that peach trees were much more hardy and reliable bearers in the early settlement of the country than now, and the fact is popularly attributed to the protecting influence of the primitive forests; and it is alleged that the seasons have been materially changed since the clearing of the land. If this is so, and is the cause of the difficulty, it becomes necessary to know the extent and nature of the change, that we may be able to adjust a remedy. We very much doubt whether there has been any change whatever in the average heat and cold, rain or snow, though it may be true in regard to the suddenness and violence of the winds. But this point can only be determined by a comparison of observations. Will some competent reader of THE FARMER who has the climatic statistics at command, give us the desired information? Perhaps the able pen that indites "the weather" record in THE FARMER, or the agreeable "G. E. B." will favor us in this particular.

We have no special theory of our own on this subject. We have alluded to some of the inconsistencies which obtain with regard to it, and the general ignorance prevalent. The people of the North will not willingly give up the cultivation of the peach until it is demonstrated to be futile. The want of success caused by the "winter-killing" of the fruit is having a most depressing effect on planters, and many are giving up their peach orchards in despair. Under these circumstances it becomes the duty of our horticultural societies to thoroughly investigate and discuss the question, and authorize careful and thorough experiments by competent persons, with a view to the unraveling of the secret, and placing peach cultivation on a sound and healthy basis. Such a series of discussions, observations, and experiments, by our various societies, could not but prove interesting, and furnish facts and data which may lead to the favorable results desired. The Western New York Fruit Grower's Society meets in this city shortly, and we hope to see it take the initiative in this matter, and inaugurate such action as may stimulate planters, nurserymen and cultivators to a united effort to preserve this valuable fruit to us free from the present risk and uncertainty.

From our own observation, we are inclined to the opinion that the remedy will be found in such measures as will in some particulars modify some of the native habits of the tree, which though well enough in the warm and equable climate of its native soil, are injurious in those fluctuating extremes of heat and cold which is the leading characteristic of the climate of the Northern States of the Union. First, the peach in our opinion should never be budded or grafted on its own stock, but on one which is by nature slow-growing, hardy, and the fiber of the wood firm and free from exuberance of

sap. We consider this a highly important point. The peach root is a free-grower, a great absorbent, and throws a vast pressure of sap into the branches, forcing a rank, sappy, vegetable growth in the tree, which in its warm native soil has time to mature, but in our short seasons this gradual and slow process is suddenly arrested by cold, the wood is full of undigested sap, and the fruit bud—tender and incapable of resisting cold, extremely sensitive to heat—falls from its own inherent weakness. What stock is best adapted to this purpose, can only be determined by experiment. The mitigating influence of the root may be seen in the case of the pear. When on its native stock, it is a comparatively slow grower, maturing well, and remaining healthy; while on quince stock, quickness of growth is greatly accelerated, and liability to disease in the wood, foliage, and fruit, *proportionately increased*. Secondly, the varieties cultivated should be the most hardy, and of low habit and stature. Third, a liberal cutting back, allowing the wood to start low. Fourth, deep plowing, breaking up of the subsoil, and thorough underdraining. Fifth, shelter, by means of timber or evergreen belts, from the southwest, west, and northwest winds of winter. Sixth, keeping the surface of the ground clean, loose and friable. Seventh, the choice of a sheltered location, side hills preferable, with a warm, sandy-loam soil. We believe all these to be essential points in successful peach culture. The importance of shelter from westerly winds is shown by the fact that in parts of Wisconsin, peach trees "winter-kill" so as to make their cultivation impracticable, while in the same latitude in Western Michigan they flourish without trouble, the winds being tempered by the waters of Lake Michigan. We trust practical fruit growers will give this matter their most serious attention. Its importance demands it, and now is a good time for its consideration.

A new candidate for public favor has recently been put forward which it is claimed is thoroughly hardy, a healthy grower, and good bearer—Van Zandt's Golden Dwarf. It has a golden yellow fruit, the cheek, which covers half of it, being a rich carmine. The foliage is large, and of a rich dark green. It bears liberally the second year from the bud, and may be planted out into the open ground, where it can be protected by covering in winter if desired. It is claimed to be sufficiently hardy to resist our extremes of climate. A few days since the writer had an opportunity of examining a block of 300 of these trees on the grounds of a nurseryman in this city. They were budded last year. The latter part of the winter and early spring was very unfavorable to young stock, and large numbers were destroyed. Over three-quarters of the Golden Dwarf were healthy and vigorous, and the proprietor informed us that a larger per centage of these dwarfs had survived than any other fruit stock of last year's budding. He regards its hardiness to withstand cold as all that is claimed for it. We hope the Fruit Grower's Society will investigate its merits at the ensuing meeting. It is important to encourage new seedlings, dwarf or standards, till we get trees that will prove hardy, prolific, and enduring.

## HARDINESS OF STRAWBERRIES.

In the eastern portions of the country, the hardiness of the strawberry is estimated by its ability to withstand the freezing of winters without protection. In the west, where late spring frosts often injure the blossoms, another kind of hardiness appears desirable. *The Northwestern Farmer* publishes a communication in which the writer states that at one plantation which he examined, three-fourths of the crop of the Wilson had been killed by the spring frosts, while only one-third of the Russell had suffered. On his own grounds he found the proportion killed about as follows: Triomphe de Gand, fifty per cent; Agriculturist, fifty per cent; Fillmore, thirty per cent; Russell, fifteen per cent; Burr's New Pine, two per cent; Green Prolific, two per cent; British Queen, thirty per cent; Trollope's Victoria, thirty; Vicompt de Hericart, fifteen per cent; Longworth's Prolific, forty per cent; Golden Seeded, twenty-five per cent; McAvoy's Superior, five per cent; Robinson Seedling, ten per cent; Georgia Mammoth, Jucunda, and other late varieties were but little affected, not being forward enough. Both the Wilson and Triomphe de Gand being protected by a belt of timber on the north and west, were scarcely injured, although the latter was "terribly slaughtered" on exposed grounds.

**THE CONCORD GRAPE.**—The well informed horticulturist, "H. T.," of the Oneida Community, recently wrote to *The Circular*:—The Concord grape appears to be steadily gaining ground in reputation. East, west, north and south, we hear it generally well spoken of. The Concord may now be said to hold the place among grapes, that the Wilson's Albany Seedling does among strawberries. It, however, seems to attain its greatest perfection in a more southern latitude. We are quite satisfied that comparatively few people in the Northern States have ever tasted a thoroughly ripe Concord grape.

**OIDIUM OR VINE MILDEW.**—A writer in *The London Journal of Horticulture* says "that a complete cure for the above disease may be found by taking one pound of flour of sulphur, one pound of slaked lime, and one gallon of rain water; mix well together, and boil twenty minutes; take off and strain; add one gallon more of water, and again boil twenty minutes, when the liquid will be a fine amber color; put in a jar and cork tight. When used, take one pint to sixteen gallons of rain water and syringe the vines, and it will not injure fruit or leaves."

**THE West Jersey Fruit Growers' Association** recommends the following as the best six varieties of native grapes:—Concord, Hartford Prolific, Rogers No. 4, Creveling, Elsinborough, and Clinton.

How frequently around newly planted trees. It is better than mulching with any material, as the fresh stirred soil admits air and light, and absorbs the dew of every night. If you have no time to hoe, then mulch.

## Ladies' Department.

### HOUSEHOLD CARES—No. 6.

TOM. often says when he comes home and finds the work all done, parlor strait and dusted, children clean, and better than all, the dinner ready, and I happen to make the remark that I have not time to sit awhile, to talk over some business of his:—"Dear me, what does a woman have to do—positively nothing; why I could do it all in half an hour, and have the rest of my time for twirling my thumbs." Now, I know that he does not mean it, and if he thought a moment would take back the assertion; but nevertheless, through the columns of your valuable paper, Messrs. Eds., I should like to jot down for his and your readers' benefit, the doings of a single day.

Five o'clock in the morning—arose, washed, dressed, and went down stairs; started the fire and put on the kettle, swept the sitting rooms and walks around the house, made the coffee, warmed the potatoes, and put on the steak to broil, called Tom., dressed the children, and made their bread and milk.

Tom. came down, and we had breakfast. Cleared away after glancing at the morning paper to see who was married or dead; wiped the children's hands and washed the dishes, went into the garden and cut asparagus and lettuce for dinner; at the same time pulled a large lot of pie-plant to bottle; came in, put the vegetables in water, went up stairs, made the beds, filled the kettle and back boiler with water, washed half a pound of rice, and put it on to boil for twenty minutes, prepared some of the pie plant took the rice from the fire, and put it in a deep pudding dish, adding to it two table-spoonsful of sugar, four eggs, and milk enough to fill the dish. Cut a slice of nice white bread and butter, and cut it in length, and placed them on the pudding, butter side up; grated a little nutmeg over it, and put in the oven, finished the pie plant, got from the store closet six bottles, washed them, took the rubbers from the tin lids, washed and dried them, and put the rubbers back again, covering them. Went up stairs and put up my winter furs, wrapped them in several clean papers and plenty of tobacco, shook them well first, however, put on the children's hats and my own, and went to market; bought three ribs of beef, at 16 cents a pound; the butcher was going to cut off the fat, and I stopped him; what we do not eat I try out and put into the dripping crock; washed the meat, took out the pudding, and put the meat in the oven—no water in the pan. I cook meat the English way, they never put water in the pan; dusted the sitting-room, parlors, and up stairs; brushed the outside blinds, peeled the turnips and potatoes, and let them stand in plenty of water till wanted; put the pie plant on to boil with as much sugar as I wished to use; if I had had no sugar should have bottled it without; it would keep just as well; put wood on the fire, set the table, gave the children bread and butter; put a plaster on Willie's finger; he cut himself with my potato knife; bottled

the pie plant, mended a broken dish, went out to look at the strawberry patch, found that there would be enough for tea, for the first time this season, came in and found a young woman in the kitchen, heard I wanted a girl, told her yes, she wanted to know why my last girl left, wanted the whole of Sunday afternoon and all the evenings in a week, two dollars a week, and didn't know nothing about taking care of children; told her she wouldn't do, sang "Oh, do not be discouraged," and basted the meat with the hot dripping in the pan, wiped the bottles and put them on a dry shelf down cellar; set some ice cream for desert in this way; a little cream and milk seasoned with vanilla and sugar, put into a freezer—a tin pail would do—put the tin into a wooden pail, a layer of ice and salt, the quantity of ice used is double that of salt, but if the cream does not freeze readily put more salt, allowing that there is still plenty of it in the pail, break your ice always with a stout darning needle—it will not waste then. It will take about six pounds of ice and one quart of salt to freeze two or three quarts of cream. I have done it with four pounds; when the first ice cream is not sufficient, add a little more fresh milk or cream, season and it will readily freeze, especially if a little of the first ice is used; always keep your ice in a blanket, and if you send to the city any distance for it, send a dry blanket or piece of flannel.

The making of the cream occupied my attention one half hour, that is, from beginning to end; but during this time I put the plates and dishes to warm in the tin oven; Tom. won't eat from a cold plate; prepared some horse radish, basted the meat, put the vegetables on to boil, made toast for the asparagus and drawn butter. Took the meat from the pan and dished it; put the pan on the fire with a little hot water added, about a half a teacupful, and a little salt; I never put flour to beef or mutton gravy; poured the potatoes very dry, sprinkled salt over them, and shook them up—it makes them mealy—and they look better; never mash potatoes, for hot roasted meat, or allow warmed up potatoes for the same; they should always be warmed up nicely for a cold meal.

By the time all was ready, Tom. came in, and we ate our dinner. After dinner, I cleared away, washed the dishes, swept the dining room and kitchen, dressed for the afternoon, made an apron on the machine for my little girl, received some callers, picked some strawberries, and made the tea.

AUNT ROSA.

THERE is nothing which tends more to mar the felicities of married life than a recklessness or want of knowledge in the housekeeper. Mothers who study the welfare of their daughters, will not fail to instruct them in the qualifications of married life; and daughters that appreciate the value of these qualifications will not fail to acquire them.

LADIES who know how to prepare a dish, ought not to be selfish, and keep it for their own benefit, but send it for publication, and may thus be the means of some poor wife regaining the affections of her husband.

**DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.**

**TANNING SKINS WITH THE FUR ON.**—To tan a skin of any kind with the fur on, first take the skin and flesh it, which is done by laying on the round side of a slab, with the flesh side out, scraping it with the back of a drawing knife until all the flesh is removed; then wash it thoroughly in soap suds until all the grease is removed: then rinse it in soft water, place it in a liquor made of one ounce of sulphuric acid and four quarts of soft water. Let it remain in the liquor one-half hour, or until the skin looks as though it was tanned. Take it out, rinse thoroughly, and work it dry, when it will be soft and pliable.—*W. D. D., Spencer, Ohio.*

**BLACK PUDDING.**—Half a pint of molasses, half a pint water, two teaspoonsful saleratus, one teaspoonful raisins, rolled in flour; or, a teaspoonful of plums, cherries, or currants, dried with sugar. Put into a mold, crock, or pail, large enough to leave one-half for swelling. If boiled in an open crock, tie a thick cloth over the top. Boil steadily three hours.

**LEMON PIE.**—One lemon, one teaspoonful of sugar, one tablespoonful of flour. Make a thick crust for the bottom, fill with water, and cover with a thin crust.

**COOKIES.**—One cup of butter, two of sugar, one well beaten egg, a teaspoonful of cream, a little soda or saleratus, and if preferred, caraway seeds. Roll thin and bake.—*G. R. A.*

**SWEET OIL FOR BURNS.**—No family, and especially families in the country, where it is not easy to procure everything desired at once, should be without a bottle of sweet oil. There is nothing like it for burns, &c. If you have none, procure some immediately.

**TINCTURE OF LEMON.**—Fill a pint bottle half full of brandy or whisky. When a lemon is used, cut the rind up freely, and place it in the bottle, thus making your own extract for flavoring cake, &c.

**COOKIES.**—One cup of butter, two of sugar, one well beaten egg, a teaspoonful of cream, a little soda or saleratus, and if preferred, caraway seeds. Roll thin and bake.—*G. R. A.*

**SIMPLE BUT DELICIOUS FRUIT CAKE.**—One cup of butter, (with salt washed out,) 3 1-3 cups light brown sugar; beat these ingredients to a cream. Put the yolks of 3 eggs into the mixture and beat all together. One cup of sweet milk, sift 4 cups of flour, in which mix 1 teaspoonful cream of tartar and half a teaspoonful of soda. Take some of this flour and rub it into 1 pound of clean, dry currants, and add them to the mixture; then gradually stir in all the flour, one-quarter of a nutmeg, and the grated rind of one lemon. Then add the beaten whites of the eggs. Pour into a pan lined and covered with white paper, and bake in a moderate oven.—*Germantown Tel.*

**STRAWBERRIES, cherries, currants and pie plant** will be in season now. All surplus from immediate wants, may be nicely bottled, and gladden the appetite the coming winter. Remember that the fruit or sauce should be boiling when bottled—that only one or two bottles or cans should be filled at a time—that they

should be filled to the brim, and the cork, lid, or sealing matter applied immediately. Any kind of narrow-mouthed bottles may be used for currants and gooseberries. Cut off the cork level with the bottle, and seal with a mixture of rosin and tallow.

**Young People's Page.****A FEW WORDS TO FARMERS' BOYS.**

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. SEARS.

Boys, ask yourselves if you do all the work which you should. Does your mother or sister, get up in the morning and build the fire? If so, do not let them do it any longer. Get up yourself, and build the fire; draw the water, so that your mother or sister will not have to go out in the cold, and they will thank you for it. Remember, and put into practice the maxim: "when you wake up, do not roll over, but roll out, and you will feel much better for getting up early. Be sure and get up at 5 o'clock in the morning, so as to have breakfast early and get to work. After building the fire, go to the barn, and feed the horses. It is a good plan to spend the rest of the time before breakfast in reading or studying while the mind is fresh. Prepare your kindling wood at night, and if the well is far from the house, also draw a pailful of water, and it will save a great deal of trouble.

Whenever you do anything, do it well, and in the right way, and you will have accomplished more than hundreds of men have done.

Break steers while young, if you would have them gentle, and you can do many small jobs with them that would otherwise require a team.

Ask your father for an acre or so of land, and if he consents, decide what you will put on it, make experiments, and report your success in *THE FARMER*, so that others may profit by it.

Keep yourself supplied with business; you can always find something to do. If your father has a work shop, (as all farmers should have,) you can, with his permission, employ yourself in repairing damaged implements which are found in abundance on most farms. Make a few bird houses, and place them in the garden, or about the yard, and you will be pleased to see the birds catching insects and hear them singing their sweet songs, while they are all the time benefiting you, by destroying noxious insects, worms and grubs.

**A FEW WORDS TO BOYS.**—If you would lay the foundation of a gentlemanly character, boys, you will heed the following advice:—"You are to be kind, generous, and magnanimous," says Horace Mann. "If there is a boy in school who has a clubfoot, don't let him know you ever saw it. If there is a boy with ragged clothes, don't talk about rags in his hearing. If there is a lame boy, assign him some part of the game which does not require much running. If there is a dull one, help him to get his lesson."

## Editor's Table.

**THANKS.**—We would return sincere thanks to our agents and friends everywhere, for the large number of new subscribers received the past month, and for the liberal manner they have exerted themselves in extending our circulation, and would solicit a continuance of their efforts. We have an unusually large number of clubs, varying from twenty to over one hundred names on our books, and which are not as yet completed. We shall be glad if our friends will make a special effort this month to close up these lists, so that we may forward the premiums. New lists may be started and the names sent on as fast as obtained. For full particulars and premium list, see last page.

### Western New York Fruit Growers' Society.

The summer meeting of this Society will be held at the Court House in this city, on Thursday, June 27th. It is expected that a more general display of Fruits and Flowers will be made than we have usually had; and in order that the exhibition may be a fine one, and an interesting feature of the gathering, it is requested that all come prepared with specimens of their productions.

H. E. HOOKER, President.

### THE WEATHER, CROPS, &c.

#### Notes on the Weather from May 15, to June 16, 1867.

The last half of May was even colder in proportion than the first, so that May was a cool month. The mean of the first half was 46.1°, and of the last half was 52.8°, the general average of the last half being 58.8°, while the hottest noon was 67°, and the hottest day only 61.7°, but was 76° in 1862. The mean of this May was 49.6, the coldest May in 31 years, or 6.8° below the general average, 56°; while the warmest May in 31 years was 61.8°.

The rain was 5.69 inches, or nearly double the mean amount. The barometer ranged low, the mean being 29.37 inches, near two-tenths of an inch below the average. Progress in farming was slow, from the great amount of rain, and little maize had yet been planted, the season being nearly three weeks behind.

On the 16th was a beautiful *looming* of Lake Ontario, so that the lake and its shore seemed within a mile of us, and all the intervening land or forest beyond this distance was invisible. This kind of mirage presents us with objects, sometimes magnified, but always erect and nearer. The shore of the lake is plain, and vessels seem to be in their ordinary course and manner. The rays of light from the shore of the lake, and its vessels, under common refraction, pass above us; but by some unknown operation on the atmosphere, the rays are now so much refracted towards the earth as to ring these objects into full view. Why should not

observers call the attention of others to such a fine sight? For not half the eyes have ever seen this *looming*.

A week later the real mirage occurred at the Lake, and in this city, vessels were seen inverted also above the erect images, or without them. This shows that one portion of the light from the objects, is reflected from the higher atmosphere, as from a concave mirror, to form the inverted image, while another portion is only so reflected as to give the simple *looming*. The former is the more wonderful, and has the French name *mirage*, from their word for a *sight* or *aim*, or *to loom*, which is from the Anglo-Saxon, *to shine*.

JUNE began warm, and has continued so for this fortnight. The mean heat of it is 67.8°, or 4.3° above the general average, 63.5°. The highest mean of this half is 70.6°, in 1852. The coldest morning was 55°, on the 1st; the hottest morning, 74°, on the 15th; the coldest noon, 65°, on the 3d and 8th; and the hottest noon, 85°, on the 14th, while the hottest day was 76°, on the 14th; and the coldest day, 61.7°, on the 8th.

The water fallen has been nearly half an inch—a very little. But the change to greater warmth has produced rapid vegetable growth. Some fields of maize on the oak openings, sandy soil, are a foot high, but the chief planting in this vicinity has been in this month, and is late. Much pleasant weather in this half.

### From New Jersey.

Our esteemed correspondent "the Doctor," writes us from Hammonton as follows:

We have an abundant crop of berries, and I think will make a better show than we had last year. All berries but Lawton Blackberries, will yield a heavy crop. The Lawton was killed by cold. We have never had such a prospect for a fruit crop. So far as my observation extends in this section, there will be an abundance of peaches. All our trees have more fruit than they ought to bear. Pears are not so abundant. I would like you to come and see Hammonton now. It is in its glory, and very many great improvements have been made since your visit last June. We had a colder average winter, a colder and more wintry and backward spring than the winter and spring before; yet, such a prospect of a fruit crop has seldom blessed the heart of man. When our crop is harvested, I will give you the result, if possible, for your next issue. Grain and all other crops look well. There is much more hay and grain than has been sown before. The resources of this soil have not yet been found out. Strangers look with wonder and astonishment upon the wonderful vegetable growth which they see. Jersey will yet shine in the agricultural world.

### From Michigan.

"S. B. P." writes us from Muskegon County, Mich., June 8:—Our lake shore region which was a few years since so universally condemned as worthless for cultivation on account of its light, sandy soil, is now being appreciated and rapidly improved. Everywhere, for

one hundred miles each way, north and south from here, are new beginnings, small patches of from one to ten acres cleared, broken up, and put out to fruit trees, mostly peach, with a good many apple and a sprinkling of pear, plum, cherry, and at the harbor towns, acres of strawberry, raspberry, blackberry and currants. Among the latter is our place, which is improving almost beyond precedent, which now counts its twenty-five steam saw mills mostly operating on a large scale with all the modern improvements, but the most cheering part of the whole is the increased attention paid to fruit growing and garden vegetables. Having a copious and safe harbor, with an easy entrance for the largest craft, and ten miles of good docking shore instead of its being wonderful the progress we are making, it is really wonderful that our resources and facilities have been so much neglected or overlooked. I think that not less than twenty-five thousand dollar's worth of village lots at from \$100 to \$500 each have been sold within the past year; most of which have already buildings up, or in progress on them, and still there is no abatement, but prices and sales steadily increasing.

#### From Ohio.

"J. A. A.," Fayette County, O., May 20th, writes:—In Fayette, wheat, both fall and spring, looks well, and promises a fair yield. Fruit is all safe yet, and if nothing happens, there will be an abundance of all kinds. The farmers are busy getting in their corn and late potatoes. The weather up to the present, has been very cold and backward. Some frost appeared on the nights of the 15th and 17th, which nipped the early potatoes somewhat.

#### The American Farmer for 1866.

We have on hand bound volumes of THE FARMER for 1866, with index complete, which we will send to any address, post paid, for \$1.25. Every reader of THE FARMER who has not got it, should send for it at once. It is full of practical suggestions, and the experience of many correspondents, and is worth more than the price to any farmer or horticulturist.

**FARMERS SAVE THE PROFITS**—And commissions made by brokers, manufacturers, jobbers, and retail dealers, by manufacturing your wool into socks, gloves, mittens, comforts, undergarments, &c., on the Lamb Family Knitting Machine. See advertisement, page 230.

#### Literary Notices, &c.

**CHEMISTRY OF THE FARM AND THE SEA.** By James R. Nichols, M. D., Editor "Boston Journal of Chemistry and Pharmacy." In 1 vol. 12mo., elegantly bound in cloth. Price \$1.25.

**GEYELAN POULTRY BREEDING IN A COMMERCIAL POINT OF VIEW.** With an introduction by Charles L. Flint, Secretary Mass. State Board of Agriculture. 1 vol. 12mo., with 27 illustrations. Price \$1.25.

As carried out by the National Poultry Company, Bromley, Kent, England. Natural and Artificial Hatching, Rearing, and Fattening, on entirely new and

scientific principles, with all the necessary Plans, Elevations, Sections and details, and a notice of the Poultry establishments in France, by Geo. Kennedy, C. E. A very scientific and thorough work, handsomely printed and bound, and beautifully illustrated. Each of the above for sale by A. Williams & Co., Boston.

**NATURE'S BEE BOOK.**—A Practical Treatise calculated to assist the Bee-Keeper in overcoming the difficulties and mysteries of Bee-keeping, and insure profitable returns for labor and capital invested. By W. A. Flanders, A. M., Proprietor of The Bee-Keepers' Institute, and Kelly's Island Italian Bee Apiaries; inventor of Flanders' Patent Movable Comb Bee-Hives; importer of Italian bees, &c.

For copies of the work, address W. A. Flanders & Co. Shelby, O.

**THE DIAMOND DICKENS.** The Personal History of DAVID COPPERFIELD. By Charles Dickens. With Original Illustrations by S. Eytinge, Jr. Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

**OUR MUTUAL FRIEND.** By Charles Dickens. With original Illustrations by S. Eytinge, Jr. Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

These are the second and third volumes of the Diamond edition of Dickens' works, issued in the same compact, convenient, and elegant style as the Pickwick papers noticed in our last number. Every admirer of Dickens should secure this edition. The price, \$1.50 per volume, for the illustrated edition, and \$1.25 for the plain, is so remarkably low as, to place it within the reach of every one to secure the writings of this celebrated author.

**NED NEVINS, THE NEWS BOY;** or, Street Life in Boston. By Rev. Henry Morgan. Illustrated. Boston: Lee & Shepard. \$1.50.

This highly interesting story has already reached its fifth edition. It gives a most life-like picture of the young outcasts in our large cities, and all who are familiar with the characters met with in every-day life in such cities as London, Liverpool, New York, Boston, and other popular places, will at once concede that it is not overdrawn. Such a work should accomplish much good in preventing crime and reforming the fallen, and will be read with great interest by thousands. For single copies or agencies, address Rev. H. Morgan, Boston, Mass.

#### HARPER'S MAGAZINE.

The May number of this highly interesting and instructive monthly closed the 34th volume. In it we find "The Virginians in Texas," concluded, and the illustrated articles "The Dodge Club in Italy," and Porte Crayon's "Personal Recollections of the War," are continued; "The Pictured Rocks of Lake Superior," "Disraeli," and "The Impending Check-mate," a poem, are illustrated; Kate Field has an article on Ristori, Samuel Osgood on New Aspects of the American Mind, Benjamin on Crete; several short stories, poems, editor's table, drawer, &c., complete the contents. A new volume commences with the June number, and should receive a very large addition of public patronage. For sale by all news dealers, or by addressing Harper & Bros., New York. Price \$4.00 a year.

#### TWICE TAKEN.

An historical romance of the maritime British Provinces, written by Charles W. Hall, and published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. The events related in this



book date back to the period embraced between 1745 and 1788, and contain a graphic description of events which occurred at that important period in the history of these British Provinces.

#### ON THE BORDER.

By Edmund Kirke, author of "Among the Pines," "Life of Jesus," "Patriot Boys and Prison Pictures," &c. Boston, Lee & Shepherd.

This story embraces an history of the "Army of the Cumberland" and Garfield's campaign in Eastern Kentucky, which is written in a pleasing style. The characters are life-like and the author has given play to his imagination in subordinate characters, making a book that will be read with great interest.

Each of the above works for sale by Darrow & Kempshall of this city.

**EXCELSIOR FARM GATE.**—We have seen this gate in operation and would call the attention of our readers to the illustration on page 213. No hinges are required, as it works on the next panel of the fence, and the whole construction is so simple, and at the same time so durable, that it commends itself to the favorable notice of farmers.

**OBITUARY.**—Hon. Isaac Newton, Commissioner of Agriculture, died at his residence in Washington, June 10th. His remains were removed to Philadelphia for interment.

#### Hop Prospects:

**Messrs. Eds.**—I have examined the hop yards for a distance of one hundred miles east and west of Rochester, and am happy to be able to make a very favorable report of their condition. Crops generally are looking well. Indeed there is a prospect of an abundant crop of everything except peaches. So far, I have discovered the *aphis* but on one hop vine. For the first time I have found the *aphis*, which has so extensively damaged hops during the last three years, upon fruit trees. The cherry trees were in some places covered with them, and apple trees were swarming with the fly. Both on apple and cherry trees, the color of the insect was darker than when found upon hops—but the insect was the same; its color depends upon the nature of the plant upon which it preys. Hop growers should at this season of the year in mind the remedies to be used in case their yards are attacked with the *aphis* or flea, and be prepared with the ingredients and means of using them. It is comparatively an easy process to destroy them when they first make their appearance. Strong tobacco water applied with a common hand syringe to hops on stakes and strings, will destroy the *aphis*. It should be applied with a force pump, to hops on poles. The under sides of the leaves, as far as possible, should receive the liquid, as it is there that the flies congregate. A sprinkling muzzle should be fitted to the end of the syringe, or to the hose from the engine or force pump. Strong soap suds, with a pound of copperas to ten gallons of the suds, applied in the same way as the tobacco water will kill the vermin. Sometimes saltpeter is added to the mixture.

With a little care and labor at the right time, the

ravages of the *aphis* may be checked, if they should appear in the hop yard.

I would call the attention of hop growers to the importance of staking newly set yards. When allowed to sun at random over the ground the first year, it is impossible to cultivate them without tearing and mangling the vines, which treatment counterbalances all the good arising from the cultivation, and prevents a healthy growth of root. The vines will pay well for good care during the first season. After as much as seventy-five or one hundred dollars' worth of hops are harvested per acre from hops that are staked and cultivated as they should be, the same season they are planted. All the vines should be trained up to the stake the first year; afterwards all but four vines should be buried. The same stake, eight feet in length, to be set in the ground one foot, is used, which is used afterwards in the staked yards, though no twine is needed the first year. If no advantage was gained by training and cultivating the plant the first season, other than that of a stronger and more perfectly developed root, it would still pay the farmer ten fold to do this.

Rochester, June 24.

F. W. COLLINS.

#### THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, June 25, 1867.

**FLOUR**—White wheat, \$16.50@17.00. Red, \$15.00@15.50.  
**GRAIN**—White wheat, 270c. Red, 250c. Corn, 100c. Barley,—State, \$1@1.10. Rye, 160c.  
**HOPS**—40@50c.  
**WOOL**—40@50c.  
**HAY**—\$12@13.  
**PROVISIONS**—Lard, 18½@14c. Butter, 18@20c. Eggs, 20c. Cheese, 14@18c. Potatoes, 60@70c. Dried apples, 10@11c.

#### New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, June 21.

**BEEVES**—There is great activity at all the cattle yards, and prices for fair beesves are high, but not so exorbitant as they were two weeks ago. The quality of beesves received during the three weeks past, was much better than usual. Only a small proportion would make inferior beef. Two weeks ago the best beesves brought 19c ¢ lb., net weight. To-day, the best will sell for only 18c ¢ lb., and only a very small number will bring over 17c ¢ lb., net weight. The general prices range from 14@17c ¢ lb., net weight, the purchaser receiving the rough tallow and hides gratuitously. The poorest lots were sold for 12@13c ¢ lb., net weight. The number of beef cattle received at all the yards for the weekly supply, the past week, is 5,056. The cattle market is declining. Grass-fed beef will soon, come forward in large supply, when the price must be still lower.

**CALVES**—The number of calves received at all the yards for the past week, is 2,062; which is less than the receipts for some previous weeks. Veal calves that are well fattened, command a remunerating price.

The unusual high price of beef cattle have a marked influence in sustaining the prices for veal. When the price of beef is high, many people will purchase veal instead of beef. Therefore the calf market is active when beef cattle sells at high figures. If there be any dullness in the calf market, it is generally attributable to the inferior quality of receipts for the weekly supply. The best calves will sell readily at 18c ¢ lb., live gross weight. As a general rule, however, the good and the poor are all sold at one price—say about 8c@10c. per lb. When the best are sepa-

rated from the common lots, and the poorest placed together, the latter will not bring more than 5c. @ 8c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D.

A large number of calves called "grassers" have been received during the past week. These consist of calves that have been brought up by hand on hay tea, buttermilk pop, skimmed milk, and a little grass. Such animals are not fit to be slaughtered, yet they sell at \$5 to \$15 per head, according to size.

**MILCH COWS**—The receipts of milch cows for the weekly supply numbers only 77. Trade at all the yards where cows are sold continues very moderate. The receipts are about sufficient for the requirements of the trade. The animals offered consist, for the most part, of the culls of the country. But as beef cattle sell at such high figures, milch cows that are at all fleshy are sold for beef. These facts tend to improve the demand for milch cows. Really good milkers sell readily at remunerative prices, but the large number of inferior cows make a dull market.

The prices at which milch cows are sold, range from \$40 to \$150  $\frac{1}{2}$  head. Very few, however, bring more than \$70 each. The general selling price seems to be from \$60 to \$75 per head. If a really good cow is offered for sale, milkmen take her quickly. Only a few cows that are brought to the New York markets are profitable milkers.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS**—The sheep market has been abundantly supplied since my last report; and at the present writing sales are slow, prices fluctuating and tending downward. Good fat sheep, however, are taken at remunerating prices. But the large receipts of thin and really poor sheep causes great dullness in the market. For a few weeks past the sheep market has been overstocked. Since my last report, another extensive sheep market has been opened on 40th street, near the Hudson river. Prices now range from 4c. @ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., live weight. Very few are sold as high as 7c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D. Most of the sales are made at 5c. @ 6c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., live weight. Lambs in a fair condition have been sold, the present week, for 10c. @ 12c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., live weight. Only a small number bring over 10c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D. The number of sheep and lambs received the week past, at all the yards, is 23,989.

**SWINE**—Prices at the hog market are working down. As the warm weather increases, there is less inquiry made for pork. Since last week prices have declined from  $\frac{1}{2}$ c. @  $\frac{1}{2}$ c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., live gross weight. Trade has been slow at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. @ 7c. Some very prime hogs sold at Communipaw on Thursday, the 20th, for \$7.10  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. Other prime lots are reported at Fortieth street, sold at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. There were twelve cars on the Fortieth street market on Monday morning, June 17th, which were sold at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. @ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. before noon.

The number received for the weekly supply is 17,608 the past week.

**Eggs**—Are cheap and in large supply. The receipts exceed the requirements of the trade. The price for New Jersey extra brands is 23c. per dozen; State and Pennsylvania, 21c. @ 22c.; Ordinary Western, 19c. @ 20c.; Western, by Express, 20c. @ 21c.; Canada, 20c. @ 21c.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen. Those who desire to keep eggs for use next fall and winter should dip them in melted lard, not boiling hot. I have kept eggs quite fresh for six months by dipping them in liquid lard and setting them on ends in a box, barrel, or keg.

**HAY**—Is in moderate demand at \$1.10 @ \$1.20 per hundred lbs. for shipping, and \$1.25 @ \$1.55 for local use,  $\frac{1}{2}$  100 Ds. Straw 95c. @ \$1.20  $\frac{1}{2}$  100 Ds.

**HOPS**—Have been inactive to-day, including New at 30c. @ 35c.; Old at 30c. @ 40c., and Foreign at 40c. @ 75c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D.

**MOLASSES**—Has been in limited demand including Porto Rico at 58c. @ 70c.; Cuba at 80c. @ 95c.; English Island, 55c. @ 57c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon.

**POTATOES**—New potatoes have been received for several weeks from Bermuda. At present new potatoes are scarcer and have advanced; old are in better demand at previous rates. We quote: Bermuda, 30; Savannah, 36 @ \$4.50; old Peach Blows, \$2.50 @ 2.75; Jackson Whites, \$2.50 @ 2.75; Buckeyes, \$1.97 @

32; Chilian Buds, new, \$2 @ 2.25; Sweet Potatoes, \$4.50 @ 5.75  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl.; Onions, Bermudas,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl., \$5; Turnips,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bunch, 2c. @ 4c.; Cabbages,  $\frac{1}{2}$  100, 36 @ 38; Jersey Green Peas,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl., 36 @ 45.50; Tomatoes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  box, 80c. @ \$1; String Beans,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel, 32 @ \$2.50; Cucumbers,  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz., 37c. @ 75c.

**POULTRY**—Has met a ready sale during the week, and prices have improved accordingly. Pigeons are scarce and higher. Live Poultry—Turkey,  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., 20c. @ 25c. Fowls,  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., 20c. @ 24c.; Spring Chickens,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pair, 75c. @ 1.50; Geese,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pair, \$1.50 @ 3; Ducks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pair, \$1 @ \$1.50. Game—Wild Pigeon, flight, 1.25 @ \$1.40; Wild Pigeon, stall fed, \$1.75 @ \$2.50  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen.

**BUTTER**—The butter market is well supplied with fair butter. At the present writing the demand for choice lots of butter is rather more active than it was last week. Still dealers state that they cannot make any calculations upon higher prices very soon. The prices range about as follows:

Fresh Pall Butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	20c. @ 20c.
State, Firkina, Yellow, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	25c. @ 25c.
State, Firkina, Light Colored, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	20c. @ 25c.
Western, Firkina, Yellow, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	18c. @ 25c.
Western, Tubs, Yellow, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	18c. @ 20c.
Western, Ordinary, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	14c. @ 17c.

**CHEESE**—The demand is moderate at the following prices, viz:

Factory Dairies, extra, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	14c. @ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Farm Dairies, extra, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	18c. @ 14c.
Farm Dairies, fair, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	10c. @ 12c.
Skimmed Cheese, $\frac{1}{2}$ D.	7c. @ 9c.

The supply of Cheese is more liberal the total receipts for the week ending this day are 37,641 boxes. The export demand is only fair, shippers taking fine factories in preference to the medium and lower grades.

**FLOUR AND MEAL**—State and Western flour has been more active to-day, but prices have again declined, closing irregularly, especially for other than fresh ground, which is in most request, and held with comparative firmness. Sales were reported of 6,900 bbls., including poor to very choice superfine State and Western at \$6.70 @ \$8.25; common to good extra State at \$8.60 @ \$9.50; good to choice do. do. at \$9.50 @ \$10.75; round-hoop extra Ohio poor to good shipping brands, at \$9.90 @ \$10 per bbl. Southern flour has been in moderate demand at reduced prices; sales were reported yesterday of 580 bbls., at \$9.10 @ \$10.80 for ordinary to fair extra, and \$10.85 @ \$15.25 for fair to very choice extra do. per bbl. Canadian flour continues quiet and depressed at \$10.50 @ \$12.75 for extra  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl. Eye flour continues in moderate demand at from \$8.50 for inferior to very choice  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl.; sales 470 bbls. Corn meal is steady to-day at \$5.75 @ \$5.90 for Jersey; \$5.50 for city, and \$11 for Brandywine and Fairfax  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl.; sales 500 bbls. Of California and Oregon flour sales were reported yesterday of 1,100 bbls. and sacks, at \$10.75 @ \$12.75  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl. of 196 Ds.

The following table will give you a fair idea of the New York flour market, viz:

Superfine State and Western	6.70	@ 8.25
Extra State	8.60	@ 10.75
Extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c.	8.00	@ 12.00
Extra Ohio, round-hoop, shipping brands	9.90	@ 10.90
Extra Ohio, trade and family brands	10.95	@ 12.00
Extra Genesee	10.80	@ 12.00
Common to choice extra Missouri	12.00	@ 16.50

**GRAIN**—Wheat has been more active, but at lower and irregular prices. There has been some export inquiry for inferior and common lots of spring wheat. Sales were reported yesterday of 68,000 bushels including white Michigan at \$2.40; very inferior to No. 3 to prime No. 1 spring at \$1.60 @ \$2.25, the latter an extreme price; and common to choice white California at \$2.42 @ \$2.60 per bushel.

In a few days the new Southern wheat will be in market. Southern papers have heretofore spoken encouragingly of the wheat crop at the South. Yet, there is but little prospect that the price of wheat will decline from the present figures.

Corn has been depressed and lower again to-day. The demand has been moderate, in part for export. Sales have been reported since our last 111,000 bushels at \$1.00 @ \$1.09 for common tr

handsome new mixed Western, closing at \$1.07@\$.1.08 for prime; \$1.10@\$.1.12 for old mixed Western; 87c.@\$.1.04 for unsound, and \$1.09@\$.1.15 for new and old white and yellow Western and Southern  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel. Rye continues very dull at \$1.20@\$.1.27 $\frac{1}{2}$  for Western, and \$1.40@\$.1.45 for State,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel. Barley is quiet and nominal. Barley malt continues inactive at \$1.50@\$.1.60  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel. Oats are heavy and lower. We quote: Old Chicago, Milwaukee and Michigan at 75c.@87c.; new Western at from 78c.@89c. for the whole range; State at 88c.@90c.; Southern at 87c. per bushel; sales 56,000 bushels.

Of Canada peas sales have been reported of 7,300 bushels on private terms. Choice beans are scarce and in limited demand; poor lots are without sale. We quote beans, marrows, hand-picked \$3.85@\$.4; beans, medium, hand-picked, \$3.85@\$.4; beans, kidneys, hand-picked, \$3.85@\$.4.25; prime beans, mixed parcels, \$2@\$.3; peas, Canada, \$1.85@\$.1.40  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel.

The Albany *Argus* publishes the following comparative statement of the quantity of flour, wheat, corn, and barley left at tide-water during the second week in June, in the years 1866 and 1867, as follows:

	Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bus.	Corn, bus.	Bar'y, bus.
1866.....	11,000	147,000	895,700	5,200
1867.....	1,900	82,000	495,500	....

Dec..... 9,100 115,000 400,200 5,200

The aggregate quantity of the same articles left at tide water from the commencement of navigation to the 14th inst., inclusive, during the years 1866 and 1867, was as follows:

	1866.....	1867.....
Dec.....	45,200	484,200
	9,000	118,200
	86,200	851,000
		1,898,300
		21,600

By reducing the wheat to flour, the quantity of the latter left at tide-water this year, compared with the corresponding period last year, shows a decrease of 106,400 barrels of flour.

The following comparative table shows the quantity of some of the principal articles of produce left at tide-water from the commencement of navigation to and including the 14th of June in the years indicated:

	1865.	1866.	1867.
Canal opened.....	May 1.	May 1.	May 6.
Flour, bbls.....	118,300	45,300	9,000
Wheat, bushels.....	661,200	404,200	118,200
Corn, bushels.....	997,600	2,986,400	1,087,600
Barley, bushels.....	126,500	49,900	28,800
Oats, bushels.....	2,068,700	1,821,800	441,600
Rye, bushels.....	58,300	84,900	46,400
Malt, bushels.....	129,900	78,100	42,400

Good wheat is scarce for supplying the home trade. Dealers state that there is quite an active demand for an inferior wheat for exporting. Just as I am closing this report, the intelligence has reached me, that the winter wheat market closes very heavy.

**WOOL**—During the past month wool has been exceedingly quiet, and prices rather depressed. The stocks of domestic fleece and pulled wools having become daily lighter, operated against lower rates; the only exceptions that occurred were through forced sales, but of not much importance, and therefore, did not diminish the confidence of holders in the assumption that there is scarcely sufficient stock of old wool for the time intervening before the new clip can be used to advantage. Texas and California wools have been disposed of at former rates, and the new clips which should commence to arrive here this month, will meet with a fair demand and ready sale for all well-conditioned good qualities. Mexican wools have been sold up, but at no improvement in rates. Some concessions have been made for unusually heavy conditioned wool, because of grease and earth, and likewise by being mixed with much of a gray and black description. Foreign fine wools—Cape and Merino—are more firmly held for the very light stock on hand, and no new imports to be had at current rates to compete with the small old stock. Foreign medium wools cannot be moved unless at very low rates, and some have been sold much below cost, although imported at the former low duty. Foreign low wools—carpet descriptions continued in fair request at rates similar to those of

April last, but not quite so firm in general. Stocks of this grade are light, and several kinds sold out entirely. The accounts from European wool markets represent a general depressed scale with easier rates.

The imports of wool into New York for the year 1866, were 59,526 bales, 84, 718,119 lbs.; the imports of wool into New York from Jan. 1 to April 27, 1867, were 16,815 bales, 7,714,521 lbs.; the imports of wool into New York for the month ending May 25, 1867, were 8,970 bales, 2,945,908 lbs.

Wool dealers are in much doubt as to which way the scale will turn in the wool market. Some predict an advance, while others foresee a decline in prices.

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dec-17

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The following are among the

## TESTIMONIALS.

From Prof. H. C. Timm, the eminent Pianist.

NEW YORK, October 1, 1866.

Having carefully examined your Choral Organs, I take great pleasure in recommending them to those desirous of purchasing really good instrument. The tone is equal to the best I ever heard, being devoid of that reediness so objectionable generally to instruments of that kind.

The swell, managed by the feet, is also an improvement by which the most charming effects may be produced.

In addition to an agreeable touch, I think their pleasing extension leaves nothing to be desired. Wishing you all success, I remain yours most respectfully,

H. C. TIMM.

From Prof. Halsey, Teacher of Music in the Public Schools, Newark, N. J.

NEWARK, September 29, 1866.

I have used your Choral Organs, both in my house and in some of the Public Schools in this city, where I teach music, and I am happy to say that they have given, and are giving, entire satisfaction. The tone is very full and fine, the action good, and the effects produced by the graduated swell are greater and finer than I have ever heard in any other reed instrument.

Yours truly,

F. I. HALSEY.

NEW YORK, September 22, 1866.

I have examined your Choral Organs, and am delighted with them beyond expression. All the light and shade of musical expression that can be obtained in a reed instrument, is combined in the Choral Organs. I am particularly pleased with the working of the graduated swell. It is decidedly one of the greatest improvements in Reed Organs.

Yours, very respectfully,

G. F. HALSEY.

Director of Music in Rev. Dr. Crosby's Church, Fourth Ave.

WE FULLY CONCUR IN THE ABOVE OPINION OF MR. G. F. HALSEY:

J. B. BARTLETT,

Director of Music in Rev. Mr. Gause's Church, 232 Street.

S. F. POWERS,

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JANUARY 5, 1867.

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# THE AMERICAN FARMER

ENTERED according to Act of Congress, in the year 1867, by JOHN TURNER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Northern District of New York.

VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., AUGUST, 1867.

No 8.



The growing season of the varying year  
Has reached its height, and tender-growing plants  
Put on a woody armor—fitter shield  
For trying autumn winds, and firm support  
For bearing up the slowly ripening seed.  
The fields are shorn of all their verdant wealth,  
Or else with seas of waving grain are filled,  
Which soon shall fall beneath the reaper's stroke.  
The corn flaunts out its gaily pennoned leaves  
And nods a welcome to the orchard near,  
Where swelling fruits foretell a goodly yield.  
The sun shines fiercely through the sultry air  
Till tender juicy plants, and new grown leaves,  
Wilt 'neath the scorching rays; and in the West  
Rolls up the round-top'd, white cap'd thunder heads  
Which soon shall grow to angry darkened clouds,  
That send deep mutterings from their inmost depths,  
With glares of light, precursors of the weight  
Of wind and water following in their train,  
Which sweeping o'er the fields, with magic breath,  
Revives the drooping plants and cools the air.

Belfast, Me.

G. R. B.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

How attractive, how beautiful, how lovely, are the meadows and forests at this season of the year when the fields are ripe with golden grain, and the loaded wagon homeward creeps with the newly mown grass and clover hay! True it is, "God made the country, and man made the town," and who can wonder that the inhabitants of our cities long for the quiet and repose of a country life, and hasten from the hot and dusty streets to friends or relations on the farm, or to the sea-side, to spend the days of hot and sultry August! But while the "lads and lasses," aunts and old folks, of our larger towns are wending their way to rural walks and shady groves, to bays and dells, to breathe the fresh and pure air of the country, the labor of the farm continues to increase, and the month of August is a busy time to the farmer. It behooves us to get ready early for

**FALL PLOWING.**—By plowing, the soil is made productive, or in other words, capable of producing

the crops we intend to grow. A soil that is close, hard, and so compact, that the fibrous roots of plants cannot penetrate it, cannot be expected to produce a crop of wheat or any other cereal, and consequently the more porous and pulverulent we can make it, the greater the return it will yield. In order that the nutritive matter contained in the soil may be made productive, we must cultivate well. The plowing must be well done, the manure applied to a field should be thoroughly incorporated with the soil in order to be within the reach of the roots of the plants. Special attention should be given to this subject at this time, and the land got into the very best condition, that we may raise larger crops to the acre, and the more land we can plow in the fall, and get into fine tilth for planting or sowing, the less we shall have to do in the spring. Many farmers reaped the reward of their foresight in this particular the past spring when the weather was so unfavorable that only a few days now and then were fit to do work in, and they succeeded in getting in their crops while their less fortunate neighbors were doing their plowing.

**SEED WHEAT** should now be looked after. We would call the attention of our readers to the Diehl wheat. In *THE GENESEE FARMER* for August, 1865, the following was said of this variety:

"This wheat originated in Indiana. Mr. J. Diehl noticed a single stool of bald wheat growing in a field of Mediterranean, which on examination proved to be a beautiful white wheat—which ripens as early as the Mediterranean. He sowed it and continued to do so till he could furnish seed to his neighbors, and they state that it is 'by far the best and most profitable variety to raise.' The straw is stiffer than the Mediterranean, and the yield fully one-third greater. We have always said that a good variety of white wheat that would ripen as early as the Mediterranean, would be worth millions of dollars to the country, and we hope our readers will try this Diehl wheat and report the result."

Many farmers in this section sowed this variety last year, and they all speak highly in its favor.

We have seen some very fine early heads, and hope in our next to give the result of the yield per acre, from those who have given it a fair trial.

**TURNIPS** may yet be sown, and the earlier the better. One pound of seed to the acre is sufficient. That sown last month should be thinned out to at least six inches to a foot apart in the rows, and all weeds kept down. A practical farmer at our elbow suggests that farmers plant largely of turnips and commence feeding them to sheep on the 1st of October, *on the land*, after the English plan. He states that for many years he followed this course in Central New York, and he and his neighbors were surprised at the improved condition of the land.

**PASTURE GROUND** should be gone over, and the droppings of animals spread evenly over the ground. How often we see tufts of rank grass growing in pasture fields caused by the dung of animals having been left in lumps on the land!

**BEES.**—Remove all honey boxes as soon as filled; replace them with empty ones. It is with great reluctance that they will commence anew without an inducement, at this season. A nice piece of dry comb placed in the top of the box, (extending to the bottom is better) will easily tempt them. Blow a little tobacco smoke into the top of the box before removing it. It will drive the bees out. To secure the honey from worms, pass a rag over the holes as soon as the box is taken from the hives. This month the bee moth is the most troublesome. Close attention should be given in destroying them. J. H. Graves of this city, has invented an attachment to hives which it is said entirely secures the moth. It is very common for bees to lose their queens at this season, and many queens prove to be unprolific. In either case the entire family will soon disappear unless the remedy is applied. Another queen or queen cell containing a young queen, or a piece of brood comb containing eggs or larvae under a week old, will repair the loss. This is a very important point in successful bee culture, and every apiarian should understand the method of instituting these remedies.

All late swarms should be returned either to their parent hives, or to weak or queenless ones; if to either of the former, the queen should be taken away, or in their royal combat both might receive the death wound.

**POULTRY.**—To improve the breed the best developed chickens should be kept for future stock. The early chicks will, with proper care, if of a good variety, commence to lay this fall, and it will pay to give them extra care and attention. See that they are supplied with water every day. The importance of

**WATER** for stock cannot be too strongly urged, as they suffer much when it is not within their reach.

Cattle should not be turned into a pasture unprovided with water. They cannot be expected to give a good supply of milk when the supply of water is scanty.

### FARMERS' DRESS.

PROBABLY no class in society, of equal respectability, more nearly obey the Scriptural injunction, "Take no thought of—wherewithal ye shall be clothed"—than the farmer. The question of dress they are willing to leave to the feminine gender, or the more effeminate of the masculine. Yet we are all naturally attracted by a well-dressed, and as naturally repelled, by a shabbily dressed man. Henry Ward Beecher once used the expression—"True; dress does not *make* the man; but when he is made, he looks better dressed up."

It would certainly add to the respectability of the farming class, if they had a little more pride of appearance. Because a portion of society are carried by this pride into foolish and wicked extravagances, making it the highest aim of their existence to make a display of wearing apparel, it is no reason why another class should lower their dignity and excite disgust by appearing in society, clothed in soiled and ragged garments.

A farmer while laboring, is brought into pretty close intimacy with dirt, and his clothes should correspond with his labor. To wear fine cloth and clean linen while at work in the field, would be highly inappropriate, but when he rides into town with his family, or to market his produce, it would elevate his calling in the estimation of the world, if he were a little more careful of his appearance. No matter how independent we may feel—however we may affect to despise the opinions of others, we are none of us entirely insensible to the sneers of the coxcomb, much less to the disgust of the respectable tradesman or professional man.

The sentiment of ideality or love of beauty, is an important attribute of the human soul—one which if properly cultivated, is calculated to conduce more to the refinement and elevation of the human race than any other, and is consequently never to be violated with impunity.

Farmers have changed a great deal within twenty years in regard for their personal appearance; but still, we frequently meet those in our cities who are so slovenly in their dress as to lower the reputation of their calling. There may be, now and then, a farmer so poor as not to afford a respectable suit to wear in society—but the number is quite limited.

Brother farmers! let us do all we can to raise the standard of our calling! Let us show the world that we can honestly earn our bread, and at the same time cultivate all those qualities which form

the well-bred gentleman! Gentleman-farmer, in its highest signification, is the title which we should strive to merit.

### FARM TALKS—No. 11.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT  
BELFAST, MAINE.

"Keepin' at it yet?"

"Yes, indeed. I ain't begun to think of finishing haying, and sha'n't for two weeks at least."

"Won't some of it be rather too ripe?"

"No, I guess not. You know the season is a week or ten days later than the average. I, for one, am determined not to pay \$35 a ton for hay next spring, as we did last."

"You most always have some to sell in the spring instead of buying."

"I know it; but I missed in my calculations last year. I estimated I had enough hay and fodder in my barn to carry my stock through, and have a little to spare; but instead of that, I had to buy half a ton."

"How do you account for it?"

"Why, the fact is, my hay was too good; it didn't spend well. I cut it all very early, and the cattle eat up almost every spear of it—no orts left."

"Didn't they do well on it?"

"There's a point to stick a pin in. I never had stock come out so well in the spring. Some of my neighbors vowed I must have fed them meal, they were in such good condition."

"Then it pays to cut it early?"

"I think upon the whole it does; that is, if you are going to feed it all out. But if you have any to sell, cut it when about ripe—it will bring just as much, weigh more, and suit the majority of buyers best."

"People do have some queer notions about cutting hay to feed out. There's one of my neighbors: never cuts his herd grass till it's ripe, nor his clover till the blossom turns to seed; and if he has a field of 'white weed,' he leaves it till it has all dried up, and there's nothing of it but a bunch of seed and a dry stalk. I don't believe in that, myself, but still I think you can cut grass so early there isn't much heart to it."

"Ever put any salt on your hay after storing it away in the mow?"

"Well, not much. What do you think of it?"

"I am of the opinion that a little is a very good thing—not only for its preservative qualities, but it makes poor hay a little more palatable for stock."

"Do you ever mow and get it in the same day?"

"Sometimes. If there is no dew in the morning, and you have a piece of light grass, it will make sufficiently to mow away, if it is a good hay day."

"I am beginning to believe that we farmers are mowing over altogether too much ground for the amount of hay we get."

"That's so. But it takes a farmer a long while to change—to adopt a principle of action even after he is fully convinced that it is for his interest to do so. We are so stubborn that we stick to the old way, simply, I suppose, because it is the old way. I don't know of any other reason. On the majority of the farms throughout the country the same amount of hay we get now might be cut from just half the number of acres. We spread our manure and our labor over a large area, and are the losers thereby to what extent any farmer can see who has to pay \$2.50 a day for labor in haying."

"Ain't you going to pitch off this load of hay to-night?"

"No, I like, if possible, to let it stay on the rack over night, as it sort of sweats and undergoes certain chemical changes which make it keep better."

KEEP TO THE RIGHT.—"Turn out, turn out!" cried a roystering teamster to some one he was meeting. "Turn out, or I'll serve you as I did the other man." The stranger, in astonishment, complied; but when John was nearly opposite called to him with "Pray, sir, how did you serve the other man?" "Why, sir," said whip, tipping a wink, "I told him to turn out, and he wouldn't; so I turned out myself!"

TOMATO WINE.—Take small ripe tomatoes, pick off the stems, put them in a basket or tub, wash clean, then mash well and strain through a linen rag; (a bushel will make five gallons pure,) then add two and half to three pounds of good brown sugar to each gallon, then put it into a cask and let it ferment as for raspberry wine. If two gallons of water be added to each bushel of tomatoes the wine will be as good.

AN Ohio correspondent of *The Rural American* counted 1,800 grains on a single stalk of buckwheat raised by him.

PLANTS set against walls and piazzas frequently suffer from want of water at this season, when even ground near them is quite wet. Draw away the soil around each plant so as to form a basin; fill in with a bucketful of water, allowing it time to soak gradually away, and when the surface has dried a little, draw in loosely the soil over it, and it will do without water for some weeks. This applies to all plants wanting water through the season. If water is merely poured on the surface, it is made more compact by the weight of the water, and the harder the soil becomes the easier it dries, and the result is, the more water you give, the more is wanted.—*Gardener's Monthly*.

## OUR FLORIDA LETTER---No 3.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY J. D. MITCHELL,  
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA.

MESSEES. EDs.:—You will be pleased to observe that we have christened our location. The significance of the name lies in the fact that the mound of shells upon which we “live and have our being,” is largely covered with myrtle trees, or in the vernacular, “naked wood”—from their smooth, straw-colored bark, which gives them the appearance of having been stripped. They have small, dark, evergreen leaves, and in April are profusely covered with small, white, feathery blossoms, very fragrant, and very much patronized by bees. This reminds me that it is a common remark that bees will not trouble themselves to lay up honey in a climate where there is no winter to provide against. This is a mistake. Not only do my bees, which are Northern born, and of course industrious, lay up honey, and work as indefatigably as though they had only their accustomed short summer in which to lay up their winter's stock, but my neighbor Scovy's bees do the same thing; and the pine woods are full of bee trees, in which a good store of honey is often found. If mine had been the only ones who worked, I should have suspected that it was owing to their ignorance regarding the custom of the country, or lack of experience in the climate; but the natives having the same habit, I infer that the common opinion is a mistaken one.

Again, some one writing to the Farmer's Club in New York, from the South, somewhere, says that for a good part of the year there were no flowers in the Southern States upon which bees could feed. From my experience thus far, I claim an exception for this locality. Through November, December, and January, my bees found enough of some kind of flowers to keep their stock good and a little more. On the 15th of February, the hommock lands were perfectly golden with the profusion of flowers of the yellow jasmin. Next and very soon after came the orange blossoms. Next, were three weeks of myrtle, and after them as many more of scrub palmetto flowers—all of them perfectly reckless of expense in the multitude and perfume of their blossoms. This succession soon brought us to the present time, three and a half months, and beside these prominent and principal sources of supply, there has been a good assortment of the varied smaller and less noticeable flowers with which the forests and plains abound, some of which undoubtedly furnish material for honey, especially the nettle, huckleberry and bayberry, which are all abundant. Again, the hommocks are full of the *Magnolia Grandiflora*, which was in bloom during May, and though I do know that bees work upon it, I do know that

it wastes perfume enough on this desert air to make the fortunes of a regiment of Lubins. What is to come yet during the balance of the year, I cannot tell, except the cabbage palmetto and the summer crop of orange blossoms, which is often quite extensive. I shall soon take up some of my honey, and then I can give the result.

I notice that “S. R.” of *The Tribune*, writing from St. Augustine, gives most of us a broadside blowing up, and winds up by saying that “however attractive the region about Mosquito Inlet is, it is at present decidedly difficult of access, and cannot be advantageously settled by individuals. It requires combined effort under skillful, honest leaders, not speculators nor”—I may as well say what has already been said, “swindlers.” Now, Messrs. Eds.: I am neither a swindler nor a speculator, and I have not the least doubt that “S. R.” would endorse my statement, and also would say that the above remarks were not applied to me; yet in the connection in which they stand, it certainly reads so, and it is because some of your readers have so construed it, that I notice it here. As for General Ely, who is plainly charged in the article with swindling the freedmen who came out with him, by the repetition of *ex parte* reports in circulation, I have not the slightest doubt of his ability to defend himself against all charges derogatory to his character as a gentleman and a soldier, and that he will not let these things remain in circulation without giving the public his own statement with regard to the matter. I do not think he needs defence by any one, and shall not volunteer it. I am happy to say that he has selected this vicinity for his residence, and is doing all he can to remove the obstacles in way of the settlement of this “attractive region,” by furnishing information to all applicants upon the location and price of lands, size of tracts, ownership, &c.

Having disposed of preliminaries, let me give your farmer readers the result of my six months experience in winter gardening in a small way, and such other observations as I have been able to make, that will interest them. I commenced operations December 5th, upon land that had been partially cleared ten years ago, and an orange grove started, but which had been entirely abandoned since the war commenced, to the rank growth of underbrush and vines that cover the hommocks, and the orange grove to the annual fires that are set by the cattle owners, so that there was little left of the orange trees but the stumps, from the roots of which had started a thicket of wild sprouts, much more difficult to bring under cultivation than the original growth. I planted *something* as fast as I cleared, and have kept doing so ever since. Most of my seeds were planted nearly three months too

late for a good crop, as they should be well grown before the January frosts come.

Spring planting begins February 1st, for corn, melons, beans, squashes, and such things as will not bear frost; while peas, beets, turnips, &c., do better to be sown in September. However, I was obliged to plant when I could, and this is the result: Irish potatoes planted from December 17th to March 9th, gave some potatoes about the same time, viz., April 20th. Those first planted grew so slowly, that the later ones overtook them. A part were three months coming up, and are now in blossom, and apparently growing finely. We began eating the crop April 20th, and finer, more mealy and delicious potatoes I never ate. I had peachblows, Garnet's Early York, and some others, and all are dry and fine—some as large as my fist. The small ones and seed ends I am replanting, to save my seed, as I can keep it through the summer in no other way. I will say here, that April and May were quite dry most of the time, as they usually are. June and July are generally wet, there being one or more showers nearly every day. And how crops grow! and how the weeds grow too! I planted sweet corn on the 7th day of January; common twelve-rowed Northern corn, February 19th, and Florida corn at same time. We had roasting ears from the first two, April 24th; cut them up May 10th, and have a second crop in their place, while the Florida corn is just filling. I continued to plant corn of both Northern and native kinds, to the 20th of April. Some of it dried up, and some of the last planting stands five and a half feet high to-day, and does not yet show a tassel. Nearly all that I have planted has been badly eaten by the "heart worm," a sort of cut worm, brown and yellow, that commences in the stalks of all sizes, eating from top to bottom, then into the ear, eating silk and kernel until it glazes. Sweet corn suffers most, because it remains soft longest. My Northern corn was harvested in eleven weeks from planting, but it grew only half the size that it grows at the North. This is the case with all that I have planted, and is also the case with the Hubbard squash and melons, so far. I am acclimating the seed as fast as I can.

Cabbages matured in four months, and were excellent. Those set June 26th, did not get their growth until dry weather came on, and but few headed well. Most of them were made into lace by some insect that bored the leaves before they came in sight. Beets grew to the diameter of an inch, and then gave it up. Turnips were large and corky. Oats headed as well as I ever saw them, but I cannot yet tell how they will weigh. Cucumbers and Hubbard squash were infested with a small green worm that nearly ate up, first the vines, and then the fruit. Tomatoes sowed 15th of January, ripen-

ed May 17th. Dry weather checked their growth then, and they are but now renewing it. Beans planted February 6th, were fit to eat April 19th. Peas grew and produced well all winter, though slowly. Watermelons planted in January are very little ahead of those planted in April. They are a very sure crop, and grow to a large size. Some of my neighbors had ripe ones a week ago. I planted a little sugar cane which is doing well. Native squashes are now ripe from vines wintered over. Also tomatoes, and this year's fruit is ripening. Sweet potatoes form the leading staple—the staff of life—to a majority of the "Crackers" of our State, and yet not one in a hundred raises as many as he wants for his own use, although they grow almost spontaneously, and with a very little protection during January, can be kept growing and producing the entire year.

First of all you plant small potatoes, say 1st of February. These are planted in the ridges in the field, or in a bed, to make sprouts which you pull up and set in the ridges. As soon as the vines are two or three feet long, you can cut them, and set or lay them, and they take root directly, and produce as well as from the seed. This you may continue to do as often as your vines grow long enough. How often this is, I cannot say, as the deer have eaten mine, though I have grown a good many more vines than I have had time to set, many of them twelve to fifteen feet long. Those which are not set in time to ripen before frost comes, lie dormant for a month or so during the frosty term, (unless they are kept from freezing by a little covering,) and then go on to grow for early potatoes, ripening in June. In digging the crop, there are always small potatoes that do not get gathered. These sprout in February, and the sprouts transplanted, like those from any other seed, so that with these in the spring and the vines during the summer and fall, there is no need of ever planting seed, and I think you will agree with me, that it requires something of an effort for a man *not* to have as many sweet potatoes as he needs. Some varieties grow to an enormous size, weighing thirty pounds.

With the exception already mentioned, during parts of April and May, rains have been frequent enough to keep everything growing finely, and even then nothing seemed to suffer, unless very unfavorably located. Thus you have a brief outline of my six months experience, and the conclusion of the whole matter is, that although most crops will grow at all times in the year, yet there is a time when any one does better than at any other time, and this adjustment of each crop to its proper season must be learned by experience. Also, that it is better to plant out of season, than not to plant at all. Als

that if a man plants all the time, he is sure to hit the right season *sometimes*.

Since I began this, I have taken about eighty pounds strained honey from two swarms, leaving them half as much more. All this has been made since I came here, beside at least doubling the size of the swarms, which were very much reduced by their month's journey and confinement. They are still making honey briskly, though there are no prominent flowers now. The flavor of the honey surpasses any I ever ate—a delicious combination of jasmine, orange, magnolia, and myrtle.

Our climate is most delightful; two or three hours in the morning of some days, are pretty warm; but then the sea breeze rises, and its steady cool current keeps you perfectly comfortable even in woolen clothing. With proper ventilation, there are nowhere more charming nights for sleeping. I have left myself no room to write of several things that would probably interest your readers but will endeavor to do so in my next. I commence budding oranges this week, and hope to have a thousand or more set before I write again, and that in three years from now they will give me 100,000 oranges.

June 1, 1867.

### COST OF FARM LABOR.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "H. T.," BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS.

EVERY farmer where extensive operations demand the employment of much labor, is well aware of the difficulty of making it a paying investment; still no one who desires the highest prosperity of his country, or the greatest happiness of its whole people, would desire to have labor deprived of its just reward in any department of industry. But in our sympathy for the laborer we must not forget that the employer has rights to be respected, and interests to be consulted; otherwise he cannot long give employment to the needy. It is a fact beyond question, that no division of our industries pays so much for labor as agriculture; and none that obtains so little work.

Mechanics, or those serving long apprenticeships to fit them for their labor, may obtain larger wages than farm laborers—but we refer to common laborers. As proof of this we need but to investigate the condition of laborers in our cities or large manufacturing towns. Men are working in our factories in these times of high wages, for fifteen and twenty dollars per month without board. If they had their board to pay at the ruling prices, their wages would be inadequate for that purpose alone; yet with this pittance they manage to live, and oftentimes keep the breath of life in a number of family of children by running in debt to the

merchants and farmers, which it is needless to say they never mean to pay. Yet the farmer could not employ these same men that are laboring for this trifling sum for twice that amount. Foreigners who have no knowledge of our system of farming must have thirty or forty dollars a month and board: one-half of them would be dear at their board alone. Thousands of such men are employed by the farmers of the United States for twenty or thirty dollars per month and board, who would obtain but little more than their board in any other position. Why this distinction? We need not ask; we know that it exists. Not only do men want more pay at farming, but in no place are they inclined to do so little work. Every farmer who has had any experience in hiring help, has learned the propensities of farm-laborers to shirk their duties; and according to the peculiarities of farm labor, no business affords the laggard a better opportunity to indulge his favorite propensity.

The farmer is often referred to his cotemporaries in the old countries of Europe, as models of successful farming; but there is little similarity in the condition of the farmers of the two countries. It is true, the tenant farmer pays heavy rents, but produce is high, and labor but an insignificant item. If the American farmer could obtain labor at the ruling prices of the old countries he could well afford to pay heavy rents, and then make his business profitable. We once had in our employ a north of Ireland man who had lived in nearly all parts of Europe. He frequently spoke of the exorbitant prices paid here for labor in comparison to prices in the old country. In his younger days he had labored in England and Ireland, receiving five pounds per year and board, which was considered the highest rate of wages. The living was confined to mush and milk, with soup twice a week. He was required to labor from early light till the close of twilight. From England he went to Holland, where he received six pounds a year and better living. Then he tried Switzerland and France, without finding any improvement in the condition of the laborer. At last he tried his fortune in sunny Italy, where he was compelled to labor for twenty cents a day, and the poorest fare. Finally, he resolved to seek his fortune in the new world, and well might he be astonished when he found our farmers paying hay makers four dollars per day. Notwithstanding the mere pittance that laborers receive in the old world, they are the men that usually demand the highest prices when they reach our shores, require the best living, and do the least work. Why this state of affairs exists, and how it is to be remedied, should particularly interest the farmer.

We do not ask that the farmer should obtain labor less than its value in other employments, neither



do we believe him justified in paying more, and obtaining less work. Farmers must regulate this matter by united action, or else they cannot hope for redress. Manufacturers and other extensive employers, regulate their own tariff of wages—why should not farmers do the same? It is true farmers are far more numerous; but still there may be unity of action. Farmers must act in concert upon many important subjects before they can hope for that success to which they are justly entitled. We have horticultural and agricultural associations—let us have conventions and associations for the discussion of subjects of equal importance to the farmer's welfare.

### POULTRY.

In "Geyelin's Poultry Breeding," noticed in our last, we find the following general rules to be observed in poultry breeding, which should demand the attention of farmers at this season:

#### THE BREEDING STOCK.

The stock must be fed regularly at sunrise and in the afternoon an hour before going to roost.

The hens selected to breed from should be kept apart from the cock until they are at least twelve months old; and the cock should not be less than eighteen months old before he is put with hens, as a too early call on nature degenerates the breed.

Whatever races are selected, they should be the most perfect specimens that can be obtained, as the first outlay will repay itself.

That the distinct races be kept strictly separate, except where it is intended to obtain a cross breed; and for this the finest specimens of both races and sexes should be selected.

Not more than six hens should be allotted to a cock.

After the third breeding year it is advisable either to sell the stock or to fatten them for the market, as they become less fecund, and their progeny are apt to degenerate.

The eggs should be collected at least three times a day, as in a fecundated egg, when set upon for a few hours, the germ very soon gets developed, and the egg is afterwards unfit for hatching.

In regard to killing and dressing for market the same authority gives the following directions:

#### KILLING AND DRESSING POULTRY FOR THE MARKET.

Almost every locality has its own system, but I may advert to a few facts on this subject: poultry, when bled to death, is much whiter in the flesh. I should advise the following plan as the very best, causing instant death without pain or disfigurement:—

Open the beak of the fowl, then with a pointed

and narrow knife, make an incision at the back of the roof, which will divide the vertebrae and cause immediate death; after which hang the fowl up by the legs till the bleeding ceases; then rinse the beak out with vinegar and water. Fowls killed in this manner keep longer and do not present the unsightly external marks as those killed by the ordinary system of wringing the neck. When the entrails are drawn immediately after death, and the fowl stuffed, as they do in France with paper shavings or short cocoa-nut fibers to preserve their shape, they will keep much longer fresh. Some breeders cram their poultry before killing, to make them appear heavy; this is a most injudicious plan, as the undigested food soon enters into fermentation, and putrefaction takes place, as is evidenced by the quantity of greenish, putrid-looking fowls that are seen in the markets.

### WESTERN NEW YORK FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "A."

THE summer meeting of this Society afforded a fine opportunity for comparison of the different varieties of strawberries exhibited on that occasion. Perhaps the most prominent feature of the exhibition was the large number of new seedlings. Some of them promise well, others are untested, and quite a number presented no particular attraction, except perhaps novelty. Some originators might do well to remember that new seedlings which possess no essential improvement on the parent stock, are no acquisition to the public, a bore on the patience of the Society, and ultimately a source of fraud on buyers. We were glad to see this view of the matter taken by the Society, and such pretenders to superiority passed over in silence, and at the same time the word of encouragement held out to meritorious seedlings. Another evil which merits condemnation is the re-naming of old varieties with new names, intending to pass as new and improved seedlings. On the table, side by side, were placed a dish of Trollope's Victoria and one of Golden Queen. Competent judges failed to detect any difference between the two, and the Fruit Committee so decided. A very strong similarity may also be noticed in the Buffalo Seedling and McAvoy's Superior, also the Golden Seeded and Triomphe de Gand, Brook's Prolific and Iowa, and numerous others. We say, let each variety stand or fall on its own merits.

Wilson and Triomphe de Gand maintained their pre-eminence. The latter was the only berry which gave a high and rich flavor. In other varieties there was great deficiency in this important constituent of a good strawberry. Jucunda came next in point of excellence. This is a rising berry in this section,

and bids fair to occupy a front rank. It is not equal to the *Triomphe de Gand* in flavor. It is a vigorous hermaphrodite plant, and a good bearer. Fruit large, round, brilliant scarlet. Green Prolific was well represented, as also the Metcalf. A new French variety called Dr. Nicaise, was shown by Frost & Co., of this city. It is probably the largest strawberry ever exhibited here, one of the berries measuring 6 3-8 inches in circumference and weighing 1 1-8 oz. It looks magnificent: of its quality "deponent" saith not," as "touch not, taste not, handle not," was the motto of the mystic banner under which it ranged itself. Of the varieties recommended by a vote of the Society, we emphatically endorse the *Triomphe de Gand*, Wilson, and *Jucunda*, recommend the Hooker and Russell's Prolific, but regard the *Agriculturist*, in the main, as a failure.

We should much like to see the New Jersey Scarlet tested in this section. It is a staminate of good size, conical, hardy, and *very early*, and we think would be likely to prove a valuable acquisition.

As of interest in this connection we give the following notes on the *Terre Haute* (Ind.) Horticultural Society spring exhibition, from a correspondent of *The Country Gentleman* :—

"The *Jucunda* took the lead in size, being far larger than anything ever tried here. They were fine in color, solid, and to my taste, of good quality. They promise well in yield. One specimen of the *Agriculturist* came next in size, but the general character of those shown, and the statements regarding it, prove its failure so far. Wilson's Albany came third in size, but numerous entries of splendid berries convinced all the unconvinced that it is *the berry*. It gains in popularity from year to year. Russell's Prolific did not show well, but high culture I think would show a different result. Fine specimens of Green Prolific and Lennig's White were exhibited. Of the former I think much, on account of its productiveness, uniformly large berries, and length of season."

## THE STRAWBERRY SEASON IN NEW JERSEY.

BY "G. W. T.," NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

THE Brooklyn Scarlet I would place at the head of the list for quality, the only one of *The Tribune* berries worth cultivation. This year it has fully sustained its high reputation.

For those who raise by the bushel the Wilson is of course the favorite.

The *New Jersey Scarlet*, with me bids fair to become a great favorite. It beds well, bears well, stands the sun well, and carries well to market. It is a peculiarity of flavor approaching nearer the

old favorite "Early Scarlet" than anything I know. Its earliness must make it a favorite with berry men.

The Barnes' Mammoth, though yet in few hands, is destined to be *the large early* good berry, if not the best. The plant (a staminate) is a good grower, while it runs well, forms strong stools, stands the sun well, is firm, of regular shape, and a bright showy berry. It has attracted attention in market; a prominent fruit dealer in West Washington market, New York, informs me it will bear shipping better than anything yet in the market, making it desirable for early Northern sale.

Great Eastern is emphatically great to bear, making immense stools and bearing most enormous crops. It is a pistillate plant, does not run so free as some others. It is impossible for a plant to run well that bears so heavily. The berry is of bright color, hangs long on the stem, a little tenacious, but not objectionable on that account, as large berries should all be sent to market with the hull on.

The Durand is a strong growing, free-running, staminate plant, fruit stems long, bending down with immense, irregular-shaped fruit, having the appearance at a distance from the plant, of the *Triomphe de Gand*. It does not appear to bear as well as the Barnes' Mammoth or Great Eastern.

Green Prolific is a strong-growing, free-running, pistillate plant, bearing a heavy crop of a rather soft, but fair market berry. It stands the sun well, and consequently matures its fruit well. Does not run like the Wilson, Lady Finger, and some others.

Ida with me does not sustain the character it was sent out with. It is pistillate, runs free, berries small and not of a bright color.

Metcalf's Early, a free-running, good bedding plant, and staminate. Its extraordinary earliness must make it a favorite. Color good, berry firm. With us it does not quite come up to its Western reputation. Another year will test it more fully.

*Agriculturist*—a great humbug—the poorest, meanest thing in the trade. As a market berry not to be compared with the Downer, and with ordinary treatment will not make a plant to be compared with that variety. The berry is poor and insipid.

French's Seedling, a good berry, bears well. A little soft for long transportation.

Several wet days in succession damaged the strawberry crop here this season.

A farm devoted to grass and apples will bring most money. Rightly managed these crops are like grace and faith, growing better through the whole of one's life.

If we expect to prosper as a nation, we must delve deeper, till more effectually, manure heavier, select our seeds better, and study all the economies of nature more deeply.

## OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

### THE DIFFERENT BREEDS OF POULTRY.

BY AUGUSTUS SINTZENICH.

MUCH has been written of late years on the subject of poultry breeding, and many have been the champions through which each favorite variety has been heralded to the public, and their various excellencies set forth. Although much has been said of a fanciful and speculative nature, and the subject somewhat overdrawn—yet the general attention which has been directed to poultry raising has resulted in a great improvement in the quality and size of our stock, as contrasted with the old, native, barn yard fowl. It may in truth be said, that the same superiority which has been attained in the improved breeds of cattle over the old native stock, is in a like degree true of our poultry. We shall confine these remarks to a brief consideration of those breeds which experience has proved to possess qualities desirable for general adoption. First in order we place

*The Dorking.*—This fowl through a long and extensive trial, both in the United States and Great Britain, has proved itself, in most essential points, the best foreign variety introduced. It is specially valuable as combining a greater number of desirable qualities than any of its competitors. It is hardy, an average good layer, first-rate sitter and mother, handsome in appearance, heavy in weight, and in quality of meat, vastly superior to any other breed. The delicacy and tenderness of the flesh is remarkable. The Dorking fattens rapidly, and grows to a large size, weighing ordinarily from four to nine pounds. In color, they are both white and gray; the former being generally preferable, while some breeders think the latter the more hardy. They are distinguished from other breeds by the peculiarity of a fifth toe. Combs generally single, but sometimes double. In form, they are long-bodied, thick-set, and short in the legs. The eggs are of medium size, and very nutritious. The Dorkings, both white and gray, are difficult to obtain pure blooded. Any number of birds, so-called, are advertised by unprincipled dealers all over the country, which bear no resemblance to the well-known markings of thorough-bred Dorkings, and the reputation of this noble bird has suffered of late years by such unprincipled conduct. H. W. Tilton, Walpole, Mass., has recently imported the White and Gray Dorking and many other varieties, selected from various English exhibitions, and his are probably the purest and best fowls ever imported. Various Canadian amateurs have the breed in great purity and perfection as exhibited in Toronto last year.

The Dorking may be crossed with the Bolton Gray, which produces a fine grade, with an increased production of eggs.

*Bolton Gray.*—This breed is somewhat under the average size, very handsome and well proportioned, and usually weighs about four pounds. Plumage, whitish gray, sometimes pencilled, with bluish colored legs. They are distinguished principally as steady continuous layers, but poor sitters. Quite hardy, stand cold well, and are altogether a desirable breed, their chief fault being light weight. They may be crossed with the Bramah or Dorking to advantage.

*Bramah.*—This is one of the largest breeds of the domestic fowl. Large and heavy, with short, feathered legs. Plumage, white and buff color. Of a quiet disposition, and hardy. The Bramah will weigh at maturity about ten pounds. The flesh is tender, but it lacks the delicacy of the Dorking. Their most prominent good quality is reliable winter laying, and in this respect they are unrivaled, producing large eggs and with regularity. Docile in disposition, they seldom attempt to leave their homes, or fly over fences or hedges, and are hardy.

*Black Spanish.*—Is a leggy, large, but light-built variety, and of handsome appearance. They have but one pre-eminent good point to recommend them—they are continuous layers, and afford a large sized egg. Very susceptible to cold, inclined to be wild, the poorest of setters, and of light weight. Not to be recommended for general use, though a few may be useful in the poultry yard, for eggs.

*Poland Top-Knot.*—Similar in many respects to the Black Spanish. All that can be said in their praise is that they are "everlasting" layers. Susceptible to disease, and easily affected by cold.

*Game Fowl.*—This is an active and quarrelsome variety, of medium size, hardy, produces a small egg abundantly, good sitters and mothers. Flesh of fine quality. A great objection to this breed is its pugnacious and quarrelsome habits.

There are a number of other breeds of no particular benefit to the farmer or amateur, such as the Dominique, Guelderland, Hamburg, Pheasant, Jersey Blue, Bantam, Mexican, &c. None of them are preferable in point of real utility, and we therefore omit further reference to them.

The first named embrace all the varieties of practical value, and each has something peculiar to itself which the taste of the fancier will lead him to select. For the greatest combination of good qualities and freedom from defects, we recommend the Dorking, Bolton Gray, and Bramah, in the order named. The crosses alluded to above of these last breeds, we think, with care, will produce very desirable grades.

## THE DIFFERENT BREEDS OF HORSES.

BY "S," NIAGARA, C. W.

IN a production limited to the size required by these essays, it will be impossible to give an elaborate account of all the different breeds of horses throughout the world, as their name is legion; we will therefore, first briefly notice some of the principal native breeds, and then enter more fully into a description of those in general use in England and America.

Chief among the different native breeds and deservedly occupying the first place, is the Arabian, which for suppleness, durability, and strength, is unsurpassed by any other. Although by many considered not altogether a model of beauty, owing to the smallness of body and narrowness of the chest, yet the head, shoulders and limbs are almost perfect. The native Arabians are not large, seldom exceeding fourteen and a half hands high. They are divided into three classes or kinds; that to which the above remarks apply is called "Kotch-lani" the others being inferior and held in little repute. Next to the Arabian, if not his equal, is the "Barb," which although not quite so high, and not having his courage, speed, and bottom, in their greatest degree, is yet decidedly superior in form. Among the other Eastern breeds are the Turkoman, which are large, averaging full sixteen hands, and exceedingly durable; the Persian, smaller and more beautiful, but far inferior in bottom; the East Indian, which are of several kinds, but all as well as the Chinese, inferior animals and undeserving of notice.

As good specimens of the different European breeds may be mentioned the German, which are generally heavy and slow; the Scandinavian and Icelandic, which are small, generally not exceeding twelve hands high, but very swift and spirited; and the Spanish, which is generally accounted a very excellent animal, although not exactly a native, having been much improved by the influx of African horses during the time of the Moorish invasion.

France produces several breeds of horses, chiefly of inferior quality; but there is a kind raised principally in Normandy, which are justly celebrated for their strength and endurance. Among other good qualities, they are said to be lively and gentle, easily broken, and exceedingly hardy, keeping in good condition on treatment that would kill many horses.

There is an exceedingly small and beautiful pony or "sholtie," as he is called by the natives, raised in the Shetland Isles, to the north of Scotland, and running wild on the hills—but at the same time gentle and docile, and very susceptible of training. His mane and tail are long and shaggy, the head small and neat, his legs and feet small and finely

shaped, and for his size, averaging not over eight hands high, is exceedingly swift, strong, and durable.

Of American native horses, there are several distinct varieties, but as few of them have ever been domesticated or brought into general use, it will be unnecessary to enlarge on, or describe them minutely.

We will now proceed to notice the principal varieties of the horse tribe in general use at the present day, and occupying a prominent place among them, perhaps the most prominent, especially in the United States, is the Morgan horse, so called from Mr. Justin Morgan, of Randolph, Vt., who is said to have raised the first of the race. His chief excellence lies in his bold, fearless, and spirited bearing, coupled with great docility of temper, and almost untiring endurance. His body is not very long, but very compact, round, and deep at the chest, with a broad breast, giving him very large lung play. His head is lean, with a good forehead, bright eye, and small ears; his neck deep, and not very long. The limbs are large, but not too fleshy, with close joints and small, but neat and very sound feet; in fact, the whole animal is a perfect model of strength, vigor, durability, health, and sound constitution. There are several hundred of these horses in general use throughout the country, all bearing an unmistakable likeness to their progenitors.

That class of animals which may be justly designated as the farmer's horse, ought to be next considered, and as there is no particular breed of these, being of every color, size, shape, and appearance, we will simply give some of the prominent points most to be desired. He should not be very heavy, nor yet too tall, from fifteen to sixteen hands, being the best for general use, stout, and compact, with rather fine limbs, and large muscular shoulders; in short, just such a horse, as if well kept, would do a hard day's work, and trot off in the evening at a brisk and easy pace, if required. There is a breed of horses, raised principally in Canada and the Northern States, and called the Canadian horse, which make very good farm horses. They are said to have been originally imported from France, and improved. They are in general small, but firm and compact, strong, durable, and easily kept, and several of them have become famous as trotting horses.

**Heavy draft horses.**—There are several species of these horses, all of them held in high repute, where great strength and endurance are required without regard to speed. Among these may be mentioned the Cleveland-bay which is very large, though symmetrical in form, and of very good action; the Suffolk, which though not quite so large, is more active, and chiefly remarkable for the immense strength and stubbornness he displays when set to a dead pull. Many splendid horses have been ruined by bets on their power in that respect, as the true

Suffolk will invariably "lay to" with all his power while it lasts.

The Dray horse has a small head, short neck, broad breast, thick shoulders, round, deep body, hairy legs, with broad, round feet, and heavy mane and tail. They are strong, and possess considerable endurance, their greatest fault being slowness.

The Clydesdale is a good heavy farm horse, large, with a good head and neck, proportionable body, being very steady, with great strength and endurance.

The Trotting horse. This is no particular breed, several of the most celebrated trotting horses having been raised and brought to notice by mere chance. Neither is there any sure marks or signs, whereby superior trotters may be distinguished, some being ornaments of beauty, while others are ugly and ungainly in appearance. The United States is the greatest country in the world for fast trotters, chiefly perhaps, because the attention of the people have been drawn more to the system of racing than any other, and therefore their training and management have been put forth more with reference to that object.

The English race horse is the last species we shall notice, and it has been left to the last, chiefly because it does not or should not have much interest to American farmers in general; yet we cannot close without giving some description of these horses, so justly celebrated among the sporting community of England. Great attention has been paid for over fifty years to the pedigree of these horses, the closest scrutiny failing to discover the slightest flaw in that of any modern racer. The peculiarities of the race horse are a beautiful head, fine and well-placed neck, long, tapering shoulders, large muscular quarters, well-bent hind legs, and long, elastic pasterns. But with these, as well as the trotting horse, perfection in form is not a sure sign of great speed. Many promising horses of this species, as well as trotters, have been spoiled by being brought out too soon, and it is a point to which the breeders and managers of all kinds of horses should pay much attention—not to ride, drive, or work a horse too hard while young, and before the joints and muscles get properly knit together.

THE hay rake swindlers are at work in Iowa, and other States. Scores of farmers in Buchanan and Delaware counties in that State, have been victimized by them.

At Savannah, Mo., the grasshoppers are said to be very destructive. Many gardens and fields of wheat and corn have been entirely destroyed.

There were thirty cases of cattle plague in Holland during the week ending June 1st.

## FARMING IN OHIO.

BY J. O. WOLCOTT.



THIS State, taken as a whole, well illustrates a mixed husbandry; probably no other better represents the different departments of farming; and this arises from its nicely variegated soils and favorable location, whereby is produced all those grains, grasses and fruits, that are natural to the most genial and fruitful portions of the globe, and through which Ohio has contributed so largely towards feeding and clothing the human family.

In some sections of the State, particularly the less northern and middle portions, wheat raising has heretofore constituted an important branch of Ohio agriculture; but lately it has greatly decreased in favor with the farmers, as their labors in this department have generally been but poorly remunerated of late years, and many of them are thinking strongly of ceasing attempts to grow wheat, and of turning their attention more exclusively to other branches of husbandry, either sheep-raising, or dairying, as these at present appear to be the objects of most interest and attention to Ohio farmers. For several years past sheep-raising has been largely on the increase, and more particularly in the wheat-producing sections of the State; and a very considerable degree of attention has been bestowed on the improvement of different breeds of sheep, mainly through the Spanish class, but much through more excellent care in the way of food and shelter. Men in the business of sheep raising, are finding out that these things pay, and therefore avail themselves of the advantages whereby they are rewarded, not only in the greatly increased weight of "fleece," but also in the self-satisfaction that is natural for man to feel in the consciousness of an improved condition of whatever he holds an interest in.

In the northern part of the State dairying is the principal business among farmers; and for a few years past its dividends exceed that of any other department of farming. Formerly, with but very few exceptions, comparatively, each farmer manufactured his own cheese, but now cheese factories are becoming quite common, usually one being sufficient for a township. In some cases, each farmer conveys his own milk to the factory; in others persons are employed to go around among the farmers and collect it together. Each individual's amou

of milk is weighed, for which he receives a corresponding quantity of cheese. At some factories the milk is purchased for so much per per gallon, in which case the simple labor of milking completes the care and responsibility of the dairyman in the line of cheese-making. Cheese made at these factories commands a better price than that made by the old method, the difference being about equal to the cost of manufacturing. And as these factories relieve the dairymen of most of the labor and much of the perplexity of cheese making, they are rapidly increasing in favor. Hence, many heretofore engaged in other departments of farming, are expressing a desire to engage in this business, whenever cheese factories are established for their convenience.

Much attention has also been given to the improvement of horses in this State, as regards all the qualities desirable in this noblest of the domesticated animals—beauty, size, speed and endurance. These form the principal source of attraction at our State and County Fairs. Cattle raising also receives much attention throughout the State. It would be difficult to find nobler and more numerous specimens of this class of animals in any other State of the Union.

Corn and oats are cultivated the State over, the former quite extensively, and generally with a bountiful yield. This is particularly the case in the middle and southern portions. The rich Miami and Scioto bottoms are doubtless unsurpassed in this respect.

Fruit raising sustains an important place in the growing prosperity of our State. Apples enter largely into Ohio exports, and grapes are quite extensively cultivated along the northern and southern borders of the State, and to a gradually increasing extent in the interior portions.

### FARMING IN KENTUCKY.

BY A. G. MULLINS.



It is a short essay anything like a fair account of farming in Kentucky cannot be given. This State was settled by pioneers, mostly from Virginia, of small means. They cleared a small piece of ground, and cultivated it either in corn, or corn and wheat, until the ground was worn out, or if rolling, until it was washed away by the heavy showers of rain

to which we are liable. By this ruinous course much of the land in Kentucky has been greatly injured—some entirely ruined, especially those parts that were rolling and subject to wash. But within thirty years a great change has taken place in our agriculture. The cultivation of clover and the grasses, and a proper rotation of crops, have made a great revolution in our system of farming. It is seldom a farmer of any note among us, can be seen without his clover fields and woodland pastures, all set in blue grass, or orchard grass, the most beautiful the eye ever rested upon.

Indian corn is one of our staple crops. It is by means of it that we mainly raise our thousands of cattle, hogs, and horses, fatten them, and send them to market. Not only do we chiefly raise our stock and fatten it on Indian corn, but it enters largely into the food of the inhabitants, being esteemed as better adapted to the working classes for bread, than flour from any other grain. A failure in this crop is a great disaster to any Kentucky farmer. Of course a crop of so much importance—so necessary to the comfort and prosperity of the farmer—must receive his most careful attention, and all means must be used, taking into consideration the price of labor, to increase the crop, and make as great a yield per acre as possible. This can be done here the easiest by taking a clover field, or a blue grass sod, and hauling all the manure the farm can afford, and spreading it on the poorest places, and fall or winter plowing.

We let the sod lie until about the middle of April, then harrow until it is pulverized on the top, lay off with a shovel plow, not too deep, and plant. It is a disputed point among farmers which is the better plan—to drill, plant only one way, or cross the land each way, and plant so that the corn can be cultivated each way. If the land is rolling, the best plan is to cultivate one way, as it does not wash so badly, and saves plowing up and down hill. But if the land is level, and help is scarce, it is better to plant in strait rows each way, as the land can be more easily cultivated with the harrow or cultivator, and takes less labor with the hand hoe.

The distance that the hills should be apart is a matter of importance, and about this a diversity of opinion exists. The strength of the ground, and the size of the corn must be taken into consideration. If the land be very strong, and the corn large, 3 1-2 feet; if poorer, 4 feet, and two stalks left in the hill. If the land be poor, small corn may be planted closer and more stalks be left in the hill.

The after culture can best be done by the harrow and cultivator, not disturbing the sod, but suffering it to decay by the warm sun and showers of spring and summer, and furnish food for the growing crops. The ground should be stirred every ten or twelve

days until the corn is from shoulder to head high. When the corn becomes glazed, and the leaves dry below the ear, it should be cut up, and put in shocks about 14 or 16 hills square. If well done, the shocks standing erect and good, it can remain until it matures, when it may be shocked and put in dry and airy cribs for future use. The fodder may be re-shocked on the ground, and hauled when it is frozen, and fed to the cattle. Well made and carefully preserved stalk fodder constitutes one of our best kinds of feed for cattle, horses, and mules.

Growing wheat is not so certain as corn. The rust, winter-killing, excess of rain, and the Hessian fly, are great hindrances to our success in raising wheat; still, some seasons we have fine wheat crops. The summer fallow system has not been much practiced. The fact that one year's crop is lost; that on rolling land the soil washes off by heavy showers of rain, and the working of Indian corn at that season of the year—hinders us from a summer fallow for wheat. Our best and most successful method of raising wheat is to plow a clover field in August which has been in clover some two or three years, and let it alone until about the middle of September; sow the wheat upon the sod, and harrow it until it is well put in, letting the sod remain at the bottom to rot. This method holds the ground together and retains the wheat better than any we have tried. As the straw is thicker on the ground, and the plant has a sufficiency of food from the decaying sod, the grain seldom takes the rust when thus treated. I have seen fields of wheat on sod, the straw bright, the berry plump and good, and a fine yield, when all other methods failed. Some seasons are so dry, and the ground so hard, that we cannot plow clover land in time to sow wheat.

Our next best method is to sow in a field planted in corn the preceding spring; treated as before mentioned for Indian corn. This makes an excellent preparation for wheat, if it is not winter killed. It must be confessed that many sow wheat without a proper regard to the preparation of the soil or manner of sowing.

Oats constitute one of our best farm crops. We usually sow oats after corn, which makes a fine preparation for oats. Oats grow well after corn. If the ground be clean, we plow them in with a shovel plow about the last of February or the first of March, or as soon as the ground is in working order. It is of great importance to have them early sown. If the ground should be foul, we turn the land over with the rounder plow, and sow and harrow in. It is of great importance to have the land clean. Oats constitute one of our best feeds for horses and mules. Cut them up with a straw cutter, and feed them in troughs—there is nothing better.

We cultivate rye to some extent. It is usually sown among the corn in the fall, in the same manner as wheat. Sometimes it is sown thickly and early to make a late fall and early spring pasture, and for this purpose it is very fine. Sometimes rye is left on the field until the hogs have gleaned the wheat and oat fields; then they are turned upon it with fine effect. This is thought to be very improving to the land, as everything is left on it except what is driven off with the hogs. Rye, when cut, threshed, and ground, makes an excellent food for horses and other animals.

The raising and fattening of hogs is a matter of great importance to the Kentucky farmer. A large portion of the grain and clover grown here is consumed by them. How they can be most easily and profitably raised, is a subject of great importance to us. The best method I have yet tried, is to get a cross of the Berkshire on our good common stock, the Berkshire imparting its fattening properties, and the common stock giving size. Let the pigs come in March or the first of April; feed the sows and pigs corn enough to keep them in fine growing condition until about the 10th of May, when the clover will be suitable to turn on. The grain may be lessened, but an ear of corn per day to each, is a great advantage while the hogs are on clover.

It is advantageous to sow a field of very early oats, of a suitable extent to the number of hogs, and as soon as ripe, or a little before, turn in the hogs to feed at pleasure. This may seem to some a very wasteful practice, but the improvement of the land and the hogs makes it profitable. This will keep the hogs in growing condition until the wheat and oat fields are ready to glean. After the wheat and oat fields are gleaned, have a rye field as above stated to turn on. When the rye is eaten up, turn on the clover, which by this time will be grown up, and feed them some corn. The hogs must be kept in good growing order through the winter and spring, and the next summer treated in the same manner until time to fatten. About the middle of September it is time to commence fattening. A field of corn of suitable size to the number of hogs to be fattened, is a great convenience. The field should be of such a size that the hogs can eat the corn before it spoils. So soon as they eat the corn on the field on which they were turned, it is best to haul corn and feed them on some suitable place where the manure will not be lost. The advantage of this method of raising hogs is, that we carry them through two summers and only one winter. We have them of a good size and a proper age to fatten; they have eaten more grass and less corn according to size, than any other plan; they have gathered a good deal of grain from the field themselves, and saved the labor of gathering at



feeding; they have left all the straw and manure upon the fields for their improvement.

We have the finest breeds of horses, cattle, and sheep in the country. How these can be most profitably raised, fattened, and sold, would require too much space to be considered in this connection.

Our grasses are the glory of Kentucky. A field with all the undergrowth and surplus wood taken off, nothing left but the finest timber sparsely scattered over it, nicely set in blue grass, with fine horses, cattle, and sheep walking over it, is one of the most beautiful objects that can be presented to the human eye. Many such scenes are to be found in our State. Blue grass has its home here, and much attention is paid to its culture. Owing to its ability to endure the winter, stock can winter upon it, except when snow is on the ground. On the whole limestone region of Kentucky red clover flourishes finely. It not only furnishes the finest pasture for all kinds of stock, but it is one of our best fertilizers. Fields sown in red clover, and suffered to lie two or three years, then all the manure the farm can afford hauled and spread on the poorer places, and plowed in, and cultivated in corn, then sown in wheat, and reseeded in clover, will continue to improve under the rotation. If the last crop of clover be suffered to seed, and then plowed under, the field cultivated in corn, and then sown in wheat, the field will re-seed itself.

Timothy is our best grass for hay. It makes a large amount of hay to the acre, comes in later than other grasses; when we have laid by the corn crop, and got in the harvest, we can mow the timothy hay. These things conspire to make it a favorite among the grasses for mowing.

Red clover makes a fine hay. But owing to its ripening so soon—in June—and the corn crop being in the height of cultivation, and the dearth, scarcity, and uncertainty of labor, we cannot generally cultivate clover, to much extent as a hay crop.

Orchard grass—the English Cock's foot, grows finely here. It was claimed by Mr. Louis Sanders as being superior to blue grass, and perhaps on oak land and where it is much shaded, it is. But on our first-rate land it is thought that blue grass is the better of the two.

We need more attention to shelter for stock in this State. In our comparatively mild climate, sheds protected on the north and west sides from the cold winds and rains, would be a great protection to our stock, and would soon pay for their erection.

At a vegetable exhibition in California, there was a mangold-wurzel that weighed 118 pounds, a cabbage 53 pounds, and a carrot 10 pounds. This is rather crowding business in the vegetable line.

## FARMING IN WISCONSIN.

BY MRS. G. L.



As the State of Wisconsin presents to the choice of the intending settler, the greatest variety of soil and location—so also do its farmers exhibit in their agricultural pursuits the greatest possible variety of modes, systems, and in some instances, lack of system.

The absence of a uniform method of farming is accounted for, not only by the widely varied character and productive capacity of the soil, but also by the fact that a large proportion of our farmers are foreigners. Nine out of every ten Norwegians who land on our shores, are bound for Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin, where they prove themselves to be a quiet, industrious people, usually settling among the bluffs, and places that no American would be likely to choose. Their sons and daughters are our main dependence for hired help. The Swiss and Germans usually manifest their presence by herds of extra sleek cattle, purple vineyards, and orchards of choice fruit.

As a whole, our farmers are intelligent, enterprising, and consequently prosperous, especially since they have abandoned the practice of growing "all wheat," which is too apt to prevail in any new State. We now have fine flocks and herds, large orchards, vineyards, and hop yards, some skillful breeders of thoroughbred horses, cattle and sheep. Shorthorns are the standard of excellence among cattle. Of sheep, the Merino is thought best. Chester White hogs are very well liked and shipped by express from Pennsylvania. Sorghum is grown all through the State with equal success and satisfaction. Small fruits are each year becoming more plenty in our city markets.

Many men are every winter employed in the pinneries, lumbering. A few go there to hunt and trap. Lumber, in the log and sawed, forms quite an item of export. Grain next, also wool, pork, and fat cattle. Much more stock might and should be kept in regions where government land affords excellent pasture almost unlimited in extent. Our best farmers, even in the regular wheat districts where the soil is of inexhaustible grain-growing capacity, say that there is more profit to be derived from raising stock, especially the improved breeds, than from the most successful farming for grain alone.

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Planting Nuts, &c.**

In replying to an inquiry as to the best time to plant nuts for growing trees, *The Germantown Telegraph* says that it should be done as soon as they come from the burr or pericarp, and of course before they get dry. This includes the chestnut, shellbark, walnut, acorn, as well as some seeds like the paw paw, magnolia, &c. Hence they must be planted in the fall. If left until the following spring they will either not come up at all, or be two years in doing so.

**Plaster and its Uses.**

At a meeting of the Herkimer Farmers' Club, May 10th, the subject of "Plaster and its Uses" was discussed. One member said he had tried plaster—a spoonful to a hill of corn—and found a marked difference between the hills thus served and those to which none was applied. It was a question among farmers whether the effect was produced from the air, or by the absorption of the soil. It was generally supposed that the gas or ammonia originating from the decomposition of vegetable or other substances, floated in the air, and that the plaster took these gases and conducted them to the grain or grasses to which it was applied. A mixture of leached ashes and plaster produced a good effect on vegetation. The experience of the other members of the Club, with plaster and ashes, was of a like character. Some thought the use of plaster on low lands was not of much benefit, but on uplands the advantage was readily perceptible. Early spring sowing—about one hundred pounds to the acre—was deemed about right, but applied to corn in the hill, in small quantities, will pay well.

**Soiling and Wheat in Massachusetts.**

Mr. James L. Humphrey, of New Bedford, informs the New York Farmers' Club that he tried spring vetches for soiling last summer, and likes them much. He sowed them on ground which was prepared for barley, and obtained a large crop, which his cows relished highly. He fed it alternately with sweet corn. He had always found one difficulty in feeding largely on sweet corn—it has a tendency to induce garget; but as he fed it last year, there was no trouble in that direction. After clearing the ground from the vetches, which it left very mellow, plowed and sowed to white winter wheat and grass seed, giving an application of ashes at the last harrowing, and now the wheat looks finely. He has never had trouble in raising good wheat on rich ground, early sown and fed off once during the fall—having once raised thirty-two bushels Southern white wheat to the acre.

**Tobacco for Scab in Sheep.**

A correspondent of *The Prairie Farmer* makes the following statement of his experience in treating the scab:—Having some three hundred sheep which were troubled with scab, it was a question to which I could find no answer, as to how much tobacco it would be necessary to use in order to cure them. At a venture, I procured two hundred pounds at a cost of twelve and a half cents a pound. I took the sheet iron bottom of an old sugar evaporator and put in from sixteen to

eighteen pounds of tobacco, and filled it within two inches of the top, and put the boiled tobacco into a barrel with a hole near the bottom, to drain off the solution after soaking, and put water after soaking in the next batch. I found that each batch would dip from twenty-two to twenty-eight sheep, if not wasted. My box for dipping was made of one and a half inch boards, sixteen inches wide, and four feet long. The bottom was sunk in the ground. Then with matched flooring made a tight platform as wide as the box was long, and put one end over the box, the other being elevated so that the juice would run back into the box as it was squeezed out of the wool. Used the solution milk-warm. My sheep are all well."

**The Wool Market.**

The prices being paid for wool are already coming nearer the amount which farmers should receive, but the disposition to realize without delay, from necessity or otherwise, by too many farmers who are already marketing their wool, keeps prices down. Wool buyers will pay no higher rates than they find to be necessary to move the clip. At some points in Michigan, we learn as high as 48c. has been paid for choice lots; we have not heard of any higher range as yet. It is very certain that more firmness on the part of farmers would have made the average price for good lots, not less than 50 cents at this time. If the growers now take alarm, and precipitate the entire clip on the market, prices will recede, instead of steadily advancing to a reasonable figure.—*Western Rural*.

**Peas for Seed.**

A correspondent of *The Rural American* says:—Peas for seed should always be picked as soon as they attain a full size, before the pod begins to turn. Put them away in the pod to dry. Peas dried in this manner will bring peas the next season from ten days to two weeks earlier than if allowed to ripen on the stalk, and the same rule applies to beans, corn, and almost all garden vegetables, as I have proved by actual experiment.

**French Method of Raising Tomatoes.**

As soon as a cluster of flowers is visible, the stem is topped down to the cluster, so that the flowers terminate the stem. The effect is, that the sap is immediately impelled into the two buds next below the cluster, which soon push strongly and produce another cluster of flowers each. When these are visible, the branch to which they belong is also topped down to their level; and this is done five times successively. By this means the plants become stout dwarf bushes, not above eighteen inches high. In order to prevent their falling over, sticks or strings are stretched horizontally along the rows, so as to keep the plants erect. In addition to this, all the laterals that have no flowers, and after the fifth topping, all laterals, whatsoever, are nipped off. In this way the ripe sap is directed into the fruit, which acquires a beauty, size, and excellence, unattained by other means.

**Hops.**

A correspondent of the *New York World* says that England is now paying from £10 to £12 per cwt. for hops—equal to 70c to 80c per pound in our currency

## Horticultural.

### FRUIT GROWERS SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK.

The summer meeting of this Society was held at the court house in this city, Thursday, June 27.

The President, H. E. Hooker, called the meeting to order at half-past eleven o'clock, and requested the committee to whom was referred the subject of a change in the name of the Society, to report, which report will be found under the head, afternoon session.

The following Committees were appointed :

On Exhibition—Elliott, Thomas and Seelye.

On Subjects for Discussion—Ellwanger, Moody and Herendeen.

On Fruit Drying Machine—Fish, Brooks and Rowe.

On Flowers—Vick, Turner and Charlton.

The show of strawberries was very fine, but not as large in quantity as we had hoped to see.

Messrs. Ellwanger and Barry exhibited 47 varieties, 28 named, and 19 seedlings, among which we noticed Nos. 15, 21, 27, 41, 48, extra fine. A seedling from the the *Triomphe de Gand* attracted general attention. It is said to be very thrifty, stands the winters well, is a vigorous grower and an abundant bearer, fine flavored, rather acid, except when fully ripe. They had also very fine specimens of the *Jucunda*.

Messrs. Frost & Co., exhibited a new variety recently imported from France, called *Dr. Nicaise*, which gives promise of being worthy of special attention.

Mr. M. D. Wilson, of this city, also exhibited some fine fruit of this variety from plants obtained from Messrs. Frost & Co. One large specimen weighed 1 1-8 oz., and measured 6 3-8 inches in circumference.

Worden & Son exhibited some fine berries called the "Golden Seeded," which the Committee on Examination regarded as identical with *Triomphe de Gand*.

Jacob Moore showed 9 varieties, among which we noticed a cross between the *Black Prince* and *Wilson*, which gives great promise.

J. Keech, Waterloo, exhibited specimens of *Generals Grant*, *Sherman*, *Sheridan* and *Mead*. *General Grant* is claimed to be the earliest berry grown; *General Sherman* is a superior berry, solid, good flavor, dark color, and of medium size.

H. E. Hooker exhibited 8 well known varieties. *Triomphe de Gand*, *Jucunda*, *Hooker* and *Wilson's*, were very fine.

Our esteemed correspondent, P. C. Reynolds, now associate editor, exhibited some fine berries of *Green's Prolific*, *Jucunda*, *Metcalf's Early*, *Downer's* and *French's Seedling*.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

On coming to order, the Committee on increase of subscription and change of name, made their report in favor of changing the name to "Western New York Horticultural Society," and the increase of admission fee to \$2.00. The recommendation on change of name was adopted, but the increase of subscription voted down.

The Committee on Business reported for discussion the following questions :

First—Which are the best four varieties of strawberries for market ?

Second—Which are the best six varieties for amateur cultivation ?

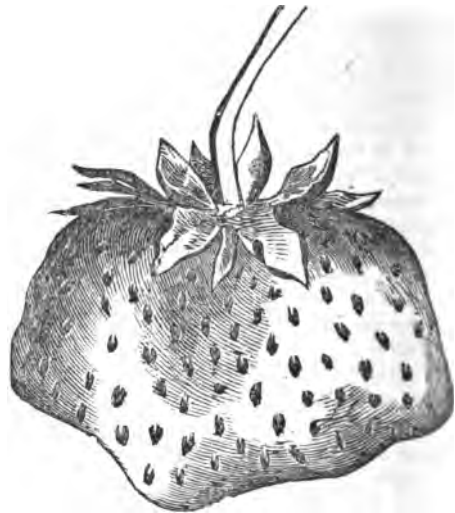
Third—What is the best and most economical method of cultivating the strawberry for market ?

Fourth—What is the best and most economical method of packing for market ?

Fifth—What is the best remedy for the currant worm ?

On the first two questions several members expressed their preference, which when summed up by vote gave the choice in the order named :

*Triomphe de Gand*, *Wilson*, *Hooker*, *Jucunda*, *Agriculturist*, and *Russell's Prolific*.



*Triomphe de Gand.*

The following resolution was offered :

*Whereas*, in view of the inconvenience of a strawberry requiring to be fertilized for the purpose of securing productiveness, this Society deems such a plant unprofitable for the use of the million; therefore,

*Resolved*, That any strawberry that is not a perfect self-fertilizer, shall not meet with any encouragement before this Society.

The resolution was argued against on the ground that there were varieties we could not dispense with that were not self-fertilizers. The resolution was lost by a very decided vote.

The most economical method of cultivating for market, was next discussed. The preponderance of experience seemed to be in favor of planting in rows from two to three feet for easy cultivation, and also for convenience in watering from a wagon when necessary. Keeping clean one year and letting them take care of themselves after that.

#### THE COMMITTEE ON FLOWERS

Beg to report that there were only two exhibitors—Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry and Frost & Co., of Rochester, and the display of roses from each was very fine. In Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry's collection there

were 75 varieties of Hybrid Perpetuals, of which the following were very fine, and are recommended for general cultivation, viz.: General Washington, General Jacqueminot, Alexander Fontaine, Augusta Mle. Geant des Batailles, Christian Puttner, Cardinal Patrizzi, Coupe de Hebe, Purpre de Orleans, Leon des Combats, Jules Margottin, Mad. Boll, Imperatrice Eugenie. Of Moss Roses there were 15 varieties, among which the following were very good, and are highly recommended, namely, Crested Moss, Salet, Madame Alboni, White Bath, Captain John Ingraham, Luxembourg.

The display of Herbaceous Peonies was superb, particularly two new seedlings, one called Fulgora—a deep rose pink and very large flower; the other named Mrs. Darge—a large and beautiful white—attracted a good deal of attention. The following, although older varieties, were magnificent and very conspicuous:—Papaveriflora, Delechi, Louis Van Houtte, Purpurea Luperba, Chas. Morel, Violacca, Washington.

Messrs. Frost & Co., exhibited a fine and well arranged collection, composed chiefly of Hybrid, Perpetuals and Mosses, but as they were placed on the table without names, the Committee are unable to determine all the varieties. A beautiful design in the form of a star occupied the center of the table, composed of such flowers as Digitalis, Pelargonium, Carnation, &c.; in the center of the design was a new seedling Petunia which in the judgment of your Committee, is fully equal if not superior to any they have yet seen. Also a very fine leaf of Alocassia Metallica.

JOHN CHARLTON,  
WILLIAM WEBSTER,  
JOHN TURNER,  
*Committee.*

The Committee on Fruits reported as follows:

The Committee on Fruits respectfully report that they find on the tables, from contributors, as follows:

#### STRAWBERRIES.

Ellwanger & Barry, twenty-eight named varieties; nineteen seedlings unnamed.

H. E. Hooker, five named varieties

H. E. Heath, two named varieties.

J. W. Gay, one variety.

M. Rowley, one variety.

O. Weeks, two varieties.

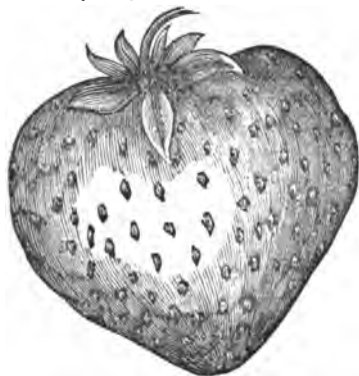
E. M. Couklin, one variety.

P. C. Reynolds, four varieties.

Frost & Co., one variety.

Worden & Son, one under name of Golden Seeded, which your Committee regard as identical with the Triomphe de Gand.

J. Keech, four seedlings under name. The General Meade and General Sheridan we would commend as worthy of trial. General Grant is claimed as early and may therefore be deserving of trial, but the specimens here would not justify the Committee in so advising.



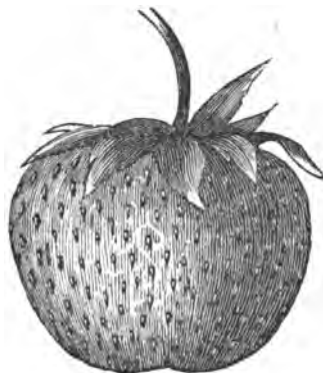
Wilson's Albany.

A variety under the name of Seneca Chief—fine appearance—quality, second rate.

Jacob Moore exhibits a collection of seedlings

which promise well, but especially Nos. 39 and 73, which are of excellent quality.

Thomas R. Peck, of Waterloo, a very superior collection of seedlings, numbering thirty-six varieties, said to have been grown from Russell, fertilized by Wilson. In this collection the parentage is generally kept in sight, but occasionally there is a touch of Triomphe de Gand in appearance and flavor. The Nos. 3, 5, 8, 27, and perhaps 23 and 16, should have further attention, and as this, with other collections, are from young plants of this the first year's fruiting, we trust the originators will keep them distinct, and bring them again before the Association next year.



Russell's Prolific.

The seedlings of Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, nineteen in number, are also some of them deserving farther trial, but we prefer to speak more especially of only one, namely, the seedling from Triomphe de Gand, on one plant of which we have counted 270 berries well set, as all can see, are even and fair in size and form, and of very good quality.

We notice also the Trollope's Victoria, occasionally under the name of Golden Queen, which is of course erroneous.

F. R. ELLIOTT,  
J. J. THOMAS,  
CHARLES W. SEELYE,  
*Committee.*

In the discussion on the last question—a remedy for the currant worm—all seemed to agree that the white hellebore was sure, but there should be but little applied, and that with a fine dredge box, the operator standing to windward.

Mr. Fish said he was in the habit of mixing it with slaked lime and applying it with a bellows arranged for that purpose.

Mr. H. G. Warner called the attention of the Society to the slugs that were eating the foliage of the grape vines in some sections.

A leaf was shown by Mr. Miller, of Brockport, from which all but the frame work was eaten.

Mr. Keech said he had observed it, and applied slaked lime and hellebore with good success. He deems this the most discouraging thing in grape culture.

The flea beetle was also described as an enemy, and it was said they could be caught in a tin kettle containing molasses and water, by jarring them from the vines.

Other members said these bugs had been seen years since, but generally disappeared in a couple of years.

The Committee on Fruit Drying House reported that they had examined Billing's Patent Fruit Dryin

House, and believe it well worthy the attention of the public, particularly of fruit growers. They also called attention to an ingenious implement for cutting runners from strawberries, and recommend its trial.

After some further general discussion the Society adjourned.

### THE GARDEN.

THE most that can be done in the garden in August, is to take good care of the fruits of the spring and summer labors, and carry well through those varieties that have not yet matured. To that end, resolutely keep down all weeds, allowing none, on any consideration, to go to seed.

Pole beans and melon vines that are disposed to run too far, should be pinched off. Asparagus ought not to be allowed to go to seed. A portion of the fruit should be removed from the melon vines, so that the remainder may grow larger and mature sooner. Celery should be kept clean to promote a rapid growth, and a frequent stirring of the soil among cabbage, cauliflower, and all vegetables still growing, is of great benefit.

Make the most of the tomatoes, as a liberal consumption of them will promote the health of the family.

Turnips may be sown early in the month, the Red-Top-Strap-Leaf being one of the best.

Make provision for next spring by sowing the latter part of the month spinach and black seed onions. They will afford greens for the table in April when every-thing green and fresh is so welcome.

During the latter part of the month strawberries may be transplanted if you were so unfortunate as to neglect putting out a bed last April. If a number of the best varieties are wanted, set out French's, Downer's, Wilson's, Green Prolific, Triomphe de Gand, Jucunda, and Russell, ripening somewhat in the order named. Green Prolific and Russell are pistillate varieties, and should be planted in rows, alternating with the Triomphe de Gand or some other good pollen producer, that they may be rendered fruitful.

A moist clay loam we find best adapted to the strawberry, retaining moisture, and preserving the size of the berry through a dry spell.

### THE STRAWBERRY CROP OF 1867.

THE strawberry crop of 1867 has been an enormous one in all parts of the country, and has demonstrated that strawberry planting has been overdone, and that there has been apparently an over-production. Perhaps had the crop commenced ripening at the usual time, say June 10th, in this latitude, and ripened gradually, it could have been consumed at remunerative prices. As it was, we commenced picking for market on the 21st, and then the hot, dry weather, ripened them so rapidly, the later varieties crowding close on the earlier ones, the supply was soon over-abundant, and prices fell to six and eight cents per box, wholesale. At those prices, it was surprising how many our city managed to consume. But few were so poor as to be unable to feast on strawberries. Undoubtedly many

a family had strawberries on their table who had never known them there before. Tons were shipped to surrounding towns, and to New York, only the finer ones paying to ship to the metropolis, where common ones were a drug.

This year's experience has taught a lesson to strawberry growers, if they will but heed it. It pays to grow large crops of fine berries, and not otherwise. A yield of less than 200 bushels per acre, of good large berries, was unprofitable. A yield of more than 200 bushels per acre, of good-sized berries, paid well, even in this year of low prices. The lesson is—plant a less area—prepare your ground well, make a good selection of varieties, and cultivate thoroughly.

*Notes on Varieties.*—We picked our first ripe fruit from the Metcalf, (a new variety originating in Western Michigan,) on the 17th. The fruit is of medium size, bright scarlet, round with long neck, sweet, and rather productive. We judge it rather soft for shipping, and are not yet prepared to give it preference to Early Scarlet, but think it worthy of further trial. The vine is very vigorous, and a great propagator.

The Wilson followed in two or three days, and is too well known to require a description. Though much abused on account of its acidity, it is a variety that we could not well dispense with. Drop this variety from our list, and strawberries would be beyond the reach of the masses, or the profit of growers would be less. Our yield of this variety was about 200 bushels per acre on land that had received no previous preparation.

French's is a good-sized, handsome berry, of good flavor, moderately productive, desirable for the family, but too soft for shipping.

Downer's ripens with the last named, and with the Wilson. Rather better flavored than the latter, nearly as productive, but smaller.

Green Prolific. We think highly of this new candidate for popularity. It comes nearer to the Wilson in productiveness than any with which we are acquainted. It is a better table berry, though softer and not so well suited to distant markets. Round in shape, fair size, light scarlet. A pistillate easily fertilized.

Triomphe de Gand heads the list for high flavor, yet its peculiar flavor is objectionable to many. A New York lady of delicate taste, pronounced its flavor "buggy"—an idea that had often suggested itself to us. On a strong, heavy soil, with high culture, it is quite productive, and bears carriage well.

Jucunda bids fair to contest the supremacy with the Triomphe de Gand. It averages larger, of better form, (conical,) similar color, (deep scarlet,) of good flavor, offensive to none, and we think will prove a better bearer than the Triomphe. Certainly no list is complete without the Jucunda.

Russell. We name only on account of its lateness as a family berry.

Those who contemplate setting out a plantation next spring, would do well to commence preparations immediately. Work over the ground well this fall, plowing in a good dressing of manure just before winter.

SEVERAL horticultural items will be found in the agricultural department.



## CULTIVATION OF PARLOR PLANTS.

EXTRACT FROM LECTURES DELIVERED TO THE LADIES AT THE  
TRACT FEMALE INSTITUTE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM WEBSTER.

THIS Flower Stand and Fountain to which I now direct your attention, is as you see, a most beautiful parlor ornament. It was invented in Germany a few years since, by a Mr. Schickler of Stuttgart, and introduced into this country by Messrs. Stencl & Meyer, the enterprising designers and wood carvers of this city, who have incorporated the manufacture of them into their business, and by whom this one was made. They call it in their circular, the "Parlor Fountain Table," I suppose from the fact that being on castors



It can be rolled with facility from one part of the room to another, like a table. The principle upon which it works is compressed air, which I will explain. The water apparatus consists of two reservoirs—this one on the upper side of the table, and one concealed below; these are connected by two pipes. To charge the fountain the water must be poured through a funnel into the upper reservoir. You observe that there are two orifices, one larger than the other; this upper portion is not a reservoir properly speaking, but merely a basin which sets on a reservoir; it is in this orifice in the lower part of the basin that the funnel is inserted. When this upper reservoir is filled, the top is screwed on and water is poured into the basin. This connects through a pipe with the lower reservoir, and as the

water accumulates in this the air is driven through the other pipe, which is shorter, into the upper reservoir, where it is compressed and attains a force equal to the weight of the column of water contained in the pipe I first mentioned as connecting with the lower reservoir, and it is this pressure of air which forces the water through the jet to the height which you now see—about two feet.

The length of time the fountain will continue to play depends entirely upon the capacity of the reservoirs and the size of the jet, as the greater the size of the reservoirs, and the smaller the jet—in the same proportion can the play of the fountain be regulated. As the compressed air is forced from above, the water falls into the reservoir below, and when this is filled the fountain ceases to play, but can be charged again by drawing all the water from the lower reservoir. This can be easily done in a few minutes, (as you see it is fitted for this purpose,) by pouring it back again into the upper one.

I scarcely know of any floral ornament on which a lady may exercise her skill to better advantage than on this. Even of itself, without any floral decorations, you see it is an object of beauty, but when these are added, its interest is increased tenfold. Perhaps but few of you are aware how much water adds to the attractions of flowers. I remember attending a horticultural exhibition in Buffalo last year, and one of the most attractive objects there, was a tank filled with the leaves and flowers of our native Water Lily, *Nympha Odorata*, which shed a most delightful fragrance around.

What plants, do you ask, are best suited to decorate this stand? Why, they are so numerous that it would take me too long to describe them; the most I can do will be to mention only a few of them. In France and Germany, where great attention is paid to the cultivation of flowers, especially among the refined and educated classes, the taste runs mainly in the direction of variegated leaved plants, or those which are highly colored, like this which I now show you. This is the *Colens Verschaffelti*. There is also another, the *Iresine Herbstii*, named in honor of Mr. Herbst who introduced it from Brazil. You observe that the leaves of both these plants are highly colored, and to fully realize the perfection of color in them they should be placed at a short distance from the eye, and held between it and the sun, when the latter named plant especially, will present a most brilliant carmine, and such a color as any painter would delight to copy.

This class of plants which I now show you, are also great favorites for decorating stands, or for glass cases. These are *Begonias*, of which there are a number of varieties. This is the *Begonia Rex*. You observe that the leaves are large and very conspicuous, but the marking is not quite as distinct as in some others, although it is very beautiful, and certainly a regal-looking plant.

To elaborate on all the plants now before me, would occupy a great deal more time than I can now devote to the subject, and shall therefore conclude my remarks by saying that nearly all the *Nymphaeaceae*, or Water

Lily tribe, either flowers, leaves, or plants, would be appropriate decorations, especially our native ones. Also, Ferns—which include the Osmundas, Adiantums, Aspidiums, &c.—the Selaginellas, Lycopodiums, or Club Mosses, would also be very effective. Fuschias, Zonale Geraniums, or any plants of a trailing habit, such for instance as Tropaeolums, Petunias, Maurandias, German Ivy, or in fact any plant that can be made to assume an easy, graceful, pendant habit. It is really astonishing how much a lady of taste can really accomplish in the way of floral decorations, by using a little judgment in the selection of plants, and even these need not be costly. Take for instance a small wire basket and fill it with such common things as Moneywort or Sedums, with a Petunia or Scarlet Geranium in the center; and when properly attended to, what an interest it will create! Despise not any plant because it is common, but use judgment in its adoption, and if directed by the hand of taste it will rarely fail to please.

## PINE TIMBER AND ITS CULTIVATION.

NUMBER TWO.

BY D. C. SCOFIELD, ILL.

THAT pine timber may be raised from small plants to large trees of two and three feet in diameter within the space of fifty years, in quantities sufficient to supply the wants of the future, is a fact, too well demonstrated to admit of doubt or cavil.

The country lying along the Hudson river was settled about the close of the war of the Revolution, in 1783, and immediately following, the Dutch having taken possession of the rich bottom lands near its banks many years before. The country westward for many miles, contained considerable quantities of pine, which for many years supplied the towns along the river, and the city of New York. About 1790, a small pine tree of eight inches diameter, was left to grow by a farmer who was clearing his land, the tree standing where it was an ornament rather than incumbrance. It was left to grow till 1815, when it was cut, and measured two and a half feet in diameter; three logs of twelve feet each, and one of ten feet, were taken from it. In the summer of 1854, I stood under a stately pine near the residence of Mr. Dickinson, of Bedford, N. Y. On asking him for a history of the tree, he referred me to his mother who was standing on the verandah, who said: "In 1813, I was walking in the yard and saw a little bush about two feet high in a leaning position. I stuck a stick by it and tied it upright, and that is the same tree." I measured it, and it was nine feet in circumference, two and a half feet above the ground, and seventy feet high.

There is to-day, standing in a yard in the village of Long Ridge, Fairfield County, Ct., a pine tree eighty feet high, three feet in diameter, which was a small tree not larger than a stove pipe, at the close of the Revolutionary war.

These facts speak for themselves. They are accidental demonstrations of the practicability and utility of raising pine forests, any reasoning to the contrary notwithstanding.

If it be urged that these were isolated cases, and would not admit of general application, we reply that it comprises a period nearly within a half century in different sections of the country; with nearly the same results. The testimony is valid. I live on and own ground, which was bare prairie in 1856, where the plow had never broken the soil. In 1857, I set pine plants one foot high from the grounds of the late William Reed, of Elizabethtown, N. J., some of which are now more than twenty feet in height, and measure more than one and a half feet in circumference. In 1858, I imported a large quantity of several varieties of pine and spruce, which I set in belts and clusters around and through my grounds, which has literally changed the winter climate of my prairie home from the severity of an open exposure to a quiet forest protection with a fair prospect that the next generation will enjoy an abundance of pine lumber. Of the different varieties of pine that I cultivate, I regard the Weymouth pine the most rapid in growth and height, and equal to any other in size of trunk. The Scotch pine is remarkably strong and vigorous, and next in value to Weymouth. The prairie soil is well adapted to the growth of pine and spruce, and with the facilities now afforded for obtaining plants, no farmer is excusable who lives in a prairie country, for neglecting to plant belts of pine or other evergreens.

In my next, I will treat of the method of cultivating the pine, and the most valuable varieties of deciduous trees, and method of forest growing.

**CURE FOR THE CURCULIO IN PLUMS.**—The West Branch, (Williamsport, Pa.), *Bulletin*, says:—"Mr. Evenden, the well known gardener of this city, says the following has been tested, and found to be a sure preventive of the attack of the curculio on plum trees. It is simple and easily tried. Take a quantity of corn cobs, with a wire around terminating in a hook at the end of the cobs; then dip them into gas tar until they are well saturated. Hang a dozen or more on the tree, in different parts, and no curculio will disturb the tree. Try it."

**BUDDING ROSES.**—In budding, select strong, healthy shoots, and let the buds to be used for the inoculation be a little in advance of the stock. Works on roses mostly still keep up the recommendation originally copied from English works to "take out the wood" from the bud, but no American operator does it. Many persons use the Manetti stock to bud roses on—and it is recommended to "bud them as low" as possible. It is better to bud them a few inches above the ground—for the Manetti will throw up suckers, which if left, will kill the rose, and they are better detached when we can see a little stem. When people will have new roses at the lowest price—or where much wood is desired for propagating purposes, or where extra fine flowers of weak growing kinds are desired, budding on the Manetti is all very well—but it is all very bad to use the Manetti for the general public. Practically the bed of choice grafted roses become all stocks in a few years.—*Gardener's Monthly*.

## Ladies' Department.

### HOUSEHOLD CARES---No. 7.

"How nice these cherries are! It seems as though I had never realized before the value of a few choice fruit trees upon a place; the reason for this, is perhaps, that the children are older, and seem to enjoy them so much; and another that there were so few worms in them; and then I have in my cellar cupboard two dozen bottles full of the red, tempting luxury—the sight of which is pleasant to the eyes. The fact is we have had cherries to eat, cherries for breakfast, dinner, and tea—cherries for company—cherries to bottle, and cherries to give away—but none to sell—we have only three trees you must know.

"I often wonder why people do not plant trees more around their houses and farms, and especially fruit trees, and sometimes I ask Tom, how it is. The reason is, he says, that people imagine they won't stay long in their present homes, and therefore will not feel the benefit, and do not believe in planting that others may reap. Now, this is very selfish, if it is so; but I do not believe it, and such people might consider that the property being improved by the addition of choice fruit trees, would sell to better advantage if they should ever wish to dispose of the property. I am just now sitting with my two children under the cherry tree that shades our back door so nicely. I have a swing suspended from one of its strong arms—a pleasant little contrivance of my own, merely an old chair with the back sawn off, the remainder inverted, and ropes tied to the four legs and fastened to the tree. It makes a nice safe swing for young children; a baby will amuse itself for some time in it, my little girl and her doll are sitting in it now while I am hulling this tub full of peas—yes, a tub full of peas, not for one meal—but I am going to bottle them. Tom, thinks it a useless, extravagant experiment, but I think otherwise, for I know that for several winters my neighbors have had peas and corn bottled, just as we do fruit, with the exception of sugar, and I am unwilling to be behind any of them, and although it is a good deal of trouble to hull them and afterwards to boil them—yet I am confident that when Tom, and some of his friends sit down at Christmas time to a meal of duck and green peas—his beaming countenance and pleasant acknowledgments will amply repay me for any extra trouble this beautiful day under the cherry tree."

AUNT ROSA.

### WHAT A GOOD WIFE IS WORTH.

A Kentucky farmer furnishes the following evidence of the money value of a wife. The companionship of such a wife was even more precious than her industry and economy:

"I have been farming twenty-two years. The first four years I was unmarried. I began farming with 250 acres, in the Blue Grass region. I handled cattle,

hogs, sheep and horses—principally the two first named—and lived, I thought, tolerably economical, spent none of the money for tobacco in any way; never betting a cent or dissipating in any way, and yet at the end of the four years I had made little or no clear money. I then married a young lady eighteen years of age—one who never had done any housework or work of any kind, except making a portion of her own clothes. She had never made a shirt, drawers, pants or waistcoat, or even sewed a stitch on a coat, and yet before we had been married a year, she had made for me every one of the articles of clothing named, and knit numbers of pairs of socks for me—yes, and mended divers articles for me, not excepting an old hat or two. She had also made butter, sold eggs, chickens, and other fowls, and vegetables, to the amount of near \$600 in cash, at the end of the year; whereas, during the four years that I was single, I never had sold five cents worth; besides making me purely happy and contented with and at my own home. And as to making money, we have made money clear of expenses every year since we were married, in everything that we have undertaken on the farm, and she has made from \$350 to \$500 every year except one, during the time selling butter, eggs, and marketing of different kinds. My yearly expenses for fine clothing, &c., before I was married, were more than my yearly expenses were after I was married combined with the expenses of my wife and children, and our farm has increased from 250 to 650 acres; and I believe that if I had not married it would have increased but little, if any, and I have never been absent from home six nights when my wife was at our home, since we were married, and her cheeks kiss as sweetly to me as they did the morning after I was married."

QUEEN VICTORIA'S COOKING ARRANGEMENTS.—To get Queen Victoria's meals ready it requires one chief cook, three master cooks, three yeomen of the kitchen, two roasting cooks and four apprentices. There are also two larders and stores, a storekeeper, two green office men, three kitchen maids, and two men to superintend steam apparatus. The salary of the chief cook is about \$3,500 a year, that of the two master cooks one half that sum. The salaries of the others vary from three dollars a week to \$1,050 a year. The chiefs of the kitchen dine in state every day at three o'clock, the chair being taken by Her Majesty's chief cook, or in his absence by the senior master cook.

WHAT ARE THE PROPER DUTIES OF A FARMER'S WIFE?—Answer—"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." Prov. xxxi. 27. It would be useless to add more, except that it applies equally well to all wives.

THE individual who would attempt to judge of the government by the men at the head of affairs, and not by the women who sway those men, would fall into the same error as he who judges of a machine by its outward action, and not by its secret springs.



## DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

**BLACKBERRY WINE.**—*Messrs. Eds.*—In answer to an inquiry for the "best and most economical method of making wine," I will give my *modus operandi*. After many outside attempts I have settled on the following method. First, secure good berries, good kegs or casks, and good Havana sugar. The berries should not be green nor frosted, but perfectly ripe. The kegs must be perfectly clean. A good way is to wash with boiling water and common soda. Extract the juice by pressing in a cider press, or even a cheese press; but do not run the berries through the apple crusher, as that breaks many seeds and gives a bad flavor to the wine. After expressing the juice, strain through a cloth strainer; add to every quart of juice three pounds of sugar, and water sufficient to make one gallon, total. Add no less than three pounds of sugar, otherwise the wine will grow acid. Place your mixture in a kettle, and bring to a boil; skim as soon as it boils, then allow it to cool, and fill your kegs about two-thirds full, and keep in a moderately cool place—a shed or open room. Place a loose cloth over the bung, and allow it to ferment. After fermenting four or five days, fill the kegs with fresh made liquor, and allow it to ferment as long as it will; then bung tight, and the last of November remove to the cellar. Rack off in March; have your spigot two inches above the chime, so as not to disturb the sediment. Rinse out your kegs in boiling water, and return the wine. Then let it stand until about June, and bottle in dark wine bottles. I have used five, ten, and forty gallon casks, and think five gallon casks far preferable. Filling the casks only part full, and allowing to ferment, then filling up and allowing a second fermentation, makes wine livelier, and it is ready for use much sooner. Wine, by this process, has at the age of one year, the appearance in all respects of four-year old wine.—*E. F., Harmony, Me.*

**ENGLISH RECEIPT FOR PICKLING WALNUTS.**—About the latter part of July, or just before the stone of the walnut commences to harden or get tough, procure as many nuts as desired; while freshly gathered, pierce through and through several times with a darning needle. When this is done, place in a crock and throw over them a rather strong brine, and allow them to remain four or five days, at the end of which time set to drain for some hours, afterwards spreading and exposing to the sun till black, which will take about a day. Pickle in the ordinary way, flavoring the vinegar very highly with ground cloves, allspice, and archives. The juice from this pickle is an excellent addition to gravy, and after the pickle is all used, the remainder may be boiled, more spice added if desired, and bottled for use, and in this way makes an excellent catsup for fish, &c. Butternuts have been recommended as a substitute for walnuts where the latter cannot be readily obtained.

"C. Whitney" wishes to know if any of our readers can inform her how to perfume — soap. We give a receipt for Windsor, which is considered by many as preferable to any other. Slice good white soap as thin

as possible, melt it gently on the fire, and scent it with oil of caraway. If convenient, oil of rosemary may be added, and oil of lavender, in proportion of one and a half each to six parts of the oil of caraway; the oil of caraway would be sufficient for ordinary use.

Soap may be made to swim by beating it well while melted. Pink colored soap may be made by mixing a small portion of vermilion in one part of the soap, afterwards mixing with the whole, but not stirring it much, which will give it a marbled appearance; vermilion will make it red; blue is made by using ultramarine. To make the soap all one color, of course requires only that the coloring matter should be well mixed in the whole. When ready it should be poured into a frame, or small drawer, and when firm may be cut into squares to harden for use.

**Eggs.**—A lady advises our readers to reserve a good share of eggs for winter use. Do not take them to market now while they are cheap, but preserve them in the following way, and sell what you do not want at a later day when they will bring more. Immerse ten or a dozen at a time, as they are brought from the barn in boiling water. Place them in a small basket, and thrust it into the boiler, counting ten or fifteen as fast as possible, and whip out immediately, proceeding thus till all are done. Place in a good basket, and set in a cool, dry cellar; they will keep all the year round fresh and good, or for home use dip in warm lard, thus sealing the shell inside and out. The lard should not be boiling, as it will crack the egg. Lard boils at a much higher temperature than water.

**OLON ROBINSON POP CORN PUDDING.**—One pint of corn when popped, making 8 quarts of corn, grind in a mill, and let it soak two hours in plenty of sweet milk.

**QUICK GINGER BEER.**—To a pail of water add two ounces of ginger, one pint of molasses, and a gill of good yeast. In two hours it is fit for use.

**LEMON BEER.**—To a gallon of water add a sliced lemon, a spoonful of ginger, a half pint of yeast, and sugar enough to make it quite sweet.

**POTATO YEAST.**—Scald enough flour with a quart of hot water so as to make a thin batter; when lukewarm, add four boiled potatoes, mashed, and a gill of yeast.

**TOMATOES,** with meat raw, should be sliced up in vinegar, salt and pepper, like cucumbers. For tea, use sweet cream and sugar: they are almost as good as strawberries.

**SWEET GREEN TOMATO PICKLES.**—Peel and slice two gallons of green tomatoes, five tablespoonsful of ground mustard, three gills of mustard seed, two tablepounsf of ground pepper, two tablespoonsful of ground cinnamon, one tablepounsf of cloves, one pound of brown sugar, three quarts of vinegar. Boil all together until quite done. If one choose, they may use one spoonful ground and a portion of cinnamon bark. A little celery tops give a fine flavor. These are excellent.

We are decidedly down on women milking cows at any time, busy or not busy.—*Jenny and Tilly.*

## Editor's Table.

### FAIRS FOR 1867.

#### State.

American Pomological Socy	St. Louis	Sept. 11-14
California		Sept. 9-14
Canada	Kingston	Sept. 28
Illinois	Quincy	Sept. 28-30
Indiana	Terra Haute	St. 30-Oct. 5
Iowa	Clinton	Sept. 24-27
Kansas	Lawrence	Sept. 24
Maryland	Baltimore	Oct. 29-31
Massachusetts		
Minnesota	Rochester	Oct. 1-4
Missouri	St. Louis	Oct. 7-13
Michigan	Detroit	Sept. 10-18
National Horse Fair	Springfield	Aug. 27-29
New England Fair	Providence	Sept. 8
New Hampshire	Nashua	Sept. 10-12
New York	Buffalo	Oct. 1
Ohio	Dayton	Sept. 28-36
Oregon		
Pennsylvania	Norristown	
Wisconsin	Madison	Sept. 28-27
Vermont	Brattleboro	Sept. 10-18

#### County.

##### NEW YORK.

Cattaraugus	Little Valley	Sept. 11-18
Cayuga		Sept. 17-19
Monroe	Rochester	Sept. 25-28
Oneida	Rome	Sept. 24-27
Ontario		Sept. 24-26
Otsego	Cooperstown	Oct. 1-8
Suffolk	Riverhead	
Washington		Sept. 10-12

##### ILLINOIS.

Boone	Princeton	Sept. 17-19
Bureau		Oct. 1-4
Champaign	De Kalb	Sept. 25-28
De Kalb	Canton	Oct. 8-11
Fulton	Carrollton	Oct. 15-18
Greene	Briggsville	Oct. 9-11
Henderson		Sept. 24-26
Lake	Ottawa	Oct. 8-11
LaSalle	Carlinville	Oct. 15-18
Macoupin	Bloomington	Sept. 8-6
McLean	Edwardsville	Sept. 8
Madison	Henry	Sept. 10-18
Marshall	Millersburg	Sept. 24-26
Mercer	Fremont	Sept. 25-27
Tazewell	Jonesboro	Sept. 18-20
Union	Versailles	Aug. 15-19
Woodford		

##### IOWA.

Cedar	Tipton	Sept. 17-19
Cedar Valley	Cedar Falls	Oct. 15-17
Jefferson	Fairfield	Oct. 9-11
Jones	Anamosa	Sept. 25-27
Kossuth	Algona	Sept. 25
Scott	Davenport	Sept. 9

##### MISSOURI.

Boone	Columbus	Sept. 30-Oct 8
Randolph		Sept. 24

##### MASSACHUSETTS.

Felix	Haverhill	Sept. 24, 25
Middlesex	Concord	Oct. 3, 4
Middlesex North	Lowell	Sept. 26, 27
Middlesex South	Frammingham	Sept. 17, 18
Worcester	Worcester	Sept. 19, 20
Worcester West	Barre	Sept. 26, 27
Worcester North	Fitchburg	Sept. 24, 25
Worcester South	Sturbridge	Oct. 8
Worcester Southeast	Millford	Sept. 24, 25
Hampshire	Northampton	Oct. 3, 4
Hampshire	Amherst	Sept. 24, 25
Highland	Middlefield	Sept. 12, 13
Hampden	Springfield	Oct. 1, 2
Hampden East	Palmer	Oct. 8, 9
Franklin	Greenfield	Sept. 26, 27
Berkshire	Pittsfield	Oct. 1-3
Housatonic	Great Barrington	Sept. 25, 26
Housac Valley	North Adams	Sept. 17, 18
Norfolk	Dedham	Sept. 19, 20
Bristol	Taunton	Oct. 1, 2
Bristol Center	Myrick's	Sept. 19, 20
Plymouth	Bridgewater	Sept. 26, 27
Barnstable	Barnstable	Oct. 8, 9
Nantucket	Nantucket	Sept. 25, 26
Martha's Vineyard	West Tisbury	Oct. 15, 16

#### OHIO.

Ashtabula	Jefferson	Oct. 2-11
Athens	Athens	Oct. 3, 4
Belmont	St. Clairville	Sept. 25-27
Champaign	Urbana	Oct. 1-4
Clarke	Springfield	Sept. 10-13
Clermont	Boston	Sept. 17-20
Clinton	Wilmington	Sept. 18-20
Cuyahoga	Newburg	Oct. 8-11
DeLancey	Defiance	Oct. 15, 17
Erie	Sandusky	Oct. 1-4
Franklin	Columbus	Sept. 10-18
Fulton	Ottoskee	Sept. 25-27
Geauga	Burton	Sept. 18-20
Geauga, (Free)	Claridon	Sept. 25-26
Green	Xenia	Sept. 4-6
Guernsey	Cambridge	Oct. 1, 3
Hamilton	Carthage	Sept. 8-9
Hancock	Findlay	Oct. 3-5
Harrison	Cadiz	Oct. 2-4
Huron	Norwalk	Oct. 2-4
Jackson	Jackson	Oct. 2-4
Lake	Painesville	Oct. 2-4
Lawrence	Ironton	Sept. 25-27
Lorain	Elyria	Oct. 1-4
Lucas	Toledo	Oct. 2-4
Madison	London	Sept. 18-20
Marion	Marion	Oct. 1-4
Medina	Medina	Oct. 2-4
Miami	Troy	Oct. 2-5
Morgan	McConnellsville	Oct. 1-3
Morrow	Mt. Gilead	Oct. 2-4
Portage	Ravenna	Oct. 1-3
Preble	Eaton	Sept. 17-20
Putnam	Ottawa	Oct. 2-4
Richland	Mansfield	Oct. 2-4
Seneca	Tiffin	Oct. 8-13
Sandusky	Fremont	Oct. 2-4
Stark	Canton	Oct. 1-4
Trumbull	Warren	Sept. 17-19
Tuscarawas	Canal Dover	Sept. 25-27
Union	Marysville	Oct. 9-11
Van Wert	Van Wert	Oct. 8-5
Warren	Lebanon	Sept. 11-13
Wayne	Wooster	Oct. 8-11
Wyandotte	Upper Sandusky	Oct. 1-3

#### KENTUCKY.

South Kentucky	Glasgow	Oct. 1-4
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#### Death of Mr. Kendall.

RICHARD C. KENDALL died on the morning of July 2d, of dropsy of the heart, at Acto, N. J., aged 51 years.

We regret to announce, as we do above, the death of our esteemed correspondent, so widely and favorably known to our readers as "Cosmo," "Bueno," "Victor," &c. Mr. K. was a great traveler, and acquired a large experience in agricultural knowledge, and few men have worked harder to elevate the agriculture of this his adopted country.

"THE SMALL FRUIT CULTURIST," by Andrew S. Fuller, practical horticulturist, Ridgewood, N. Y., is a beautifully illustrated and practical work, containing information for the professional cultivator and the amateur, and supplies a want long felt by those interested in small fruit culture. Mr. F. has had large experience in this branch of horticulture, and the work before us is full of concise information adapted to the wants of the million.

"CHEMISTRY OF THE FARM AND THE SEA," with other familiar chemical essays, by James R. Nichols, M. D., editor of the "Boston Journal of Chemistry," member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This is a work that every farmer should "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest," to his profit and advance in scientific knowledge. Published by A. Williams & Co., Boston. Price \$1.25.

**THE WEATHER, CROPS, &c.****Notes on the Weather from June 15, to July 16, 1867.**

ANOTHER pleasant half of June, but rather warm. The mean of it is 71.5°, or 2.5° above the general average, 69.1°. The last day of the half was 79°, and at noon, 88°. Two other days of the last half gave 85° at noon, and two others 84°. The coldest morning was 60°, on the 19th, and the warmest morning was 75° on the 25th. The mean of the month was 69.7°, being 3.4° above the average, 66.3. The hottest June was 71.9°, in 1854, and the coldest June, 59.6°, in 1839.

The rain of this half was 1.04 inch, and of the month, 1.40, a small quantity.

The barometer gives nearly the average, 29.50 inches.

In 1859 we had a cold June, and on the 5th and 11th, destructive frosts, killing fields of wheat to some extent, and many other vegetables. But this year the last half has advanced vegetation greatly—wheat coming to maturity fast. Strawberries, raised here, have abounded from the 22d, and been relatively cheap, and in some cases very cheap from their abundance. The earth became dry at the last of the month, as little rain had fallen for ten days. Prospects are fine for the coming harvest.

JULY has been so far, cooler in proportion than the last half month. The hottest noon was only 85°, on the 3d, which was also the hottest day, 76.3°. The coldest morning, 56°, on the 9th, and the coldest day also, 56.7°. The mean of the half was 68.1°, which is 2.2° below the general average, 70.3°. The heat was 82° at noon, on the 4th and 11th, and 83° on the 15th. Though below the average, vegetation has rapidly advanced; the feared drouth has not come, as abundant rains have given us 2.49 inches of water, exceeding the average. The wheat harvest begins at the close of this half, and will soon become general, with very fair promise of rich crops.

Barometer just below the average. General health prevails. The wheat of the South is already harvested, and the produce very abundant. In the condition of the country this is a great blessing, and calls for devout gratitude.

**New York—Hop Prospects, &c.**

**MRSRS. EDS.**—After a week's ride through the valley of the Genesee, in Livingston, Wyoming, and Allegany counties, inspecting the hop yards with especial reference to the action of vermin and other enemies of this plant, I am happy to be able to report favorably of the prospects of the coming crop. The vine looks healthy and vigorous. The season has been favorable, so far. The month of June produced a rapid growth, and up to this date, July 20th, in which the aphid usually makes its appearance, has been propitious. The days have not been excessively warm, and the cool nights and frequent rains have kept the vermin in check. They have done no damage yet, and do not seem to increase rapidly. The cool weather has been as fortunate for the hop planters as the wheat

growers, in ripening the crops, and the present indications are that we shall receive large crops. There are only six weeks yet to the hop harvest, and while it is not best to be expecting any great calamity to befall the crop during this time, the wise planter will note the first symptoms of disorder, and apply the most approved remedies, rather than fold his hands and give up the crop as lost. The demand for hops is fast increasing, and if we have a crop good both in quality and quantity, it will all be wanted at good prices. There are not many more acres of bearing hops this year than last in the State of New York, because so many of the long poled yards have been destroyed by early cutting, and loss of sap from the roots. The hop acreage has meantime been greatly augmented at the West, especially in Wisconsin and Iowa.

As the picking season approaches it will not be amiss to caution the planter to have his hops picked clean and whole. Baskets that hold five or six bushels are better to pick in than boxes or frames with sacking bottoms. Unpeeled osier willow baskets are strong, light, durable, and easily moved along under the twine, and thus the crop may be harvested without cutting off any of the vines.

See that the ventilation of the kiln is good. A large volume of air should pass from the bottom of the furnace room through the thin, open carpet, or floor cloth, and out of the ventilator at the top, which should be five or six feet square. The floor cloth should rest on slats only one-fourth of an inch in width where it touches the carpet, and the hops should neither be stirred up nor turned during the process of drying, as, if the ventilation is good, it is not only unnecessary labor, but breaks and damages the hops to no purpose. The carpet should be seven or eight feet above the pipes. A fine light green, or straw colored hop, is always saleable, and the care necessary to insure such a fancy article always pays for itself with interest.

Farmers report that the hay crop was never so large, and that wheat is now being harvested, and gives prospect of a very large yield, the berry being plump, heads well filled, and will give better results than for years past.—*F. W. C.*

**Western New York.**

Haying is through in this section and the yield generally satisfactory to farmers. We are now (July 23), in the midst of the wheat harvest, which from all present appearances promises to be the best in this section for many years. Winter wheat has escaped all the ill it is heir to, and ripens up magnificently. The Dick variety gives great satisfaction. It is plump, white and prolific, and is equal to any in quality. Our farmers will sow largely this year of winter wheat. Corn is progressing finely, and promises well. Fruit promises well. The husbandman has cause of thankfulness to the Giver of all good, for the blessings of peace and plenty.

**Maine Items.**

EVERYTHING pertaining to farming is progressing favorably. The spring was very backward, but the splendid weather for the past four weeks has almost

made up for it. Vegetation is pushing forward rapidly. The fruit (apple) crop will be light. The hay crop, heavier than for years. Most farmers will have commenced by July 10. Other crops are looking well. Hoeing most finished at this writing. Strawberries ripe and plenty at 15 cents a quart. Produce market dull. Potatoes, old, 40 and 50 cents; butter, 18 and 20 cents; eggs, 18 cents; spring lambs, \$2.50 to \$3 each. Beef, 10 to 14 cents; veal, 8 cents; wool, 30 and 35 cents. Stock well up; cows, \$35 to \$50; working oxen, 6 feet 2, to 6 inches, \$160 to \$220 a pair. The tent caterpillar has not committed so much destruction in the State as last year. The State Agricultural College is progressing. Buildings are being erected on the farm at Orono, and some blooded stock purchased. It is expected to go into practical operation by next autumn.—*G. E. B., Belfast, Me., July 3.*

#### New Jersey.

Our Rahway correspondent writes:

As regards the growing crops, in the first place the weather had been unfavorable since the 10th of May, having rained fully one-third of the time, consequently corn planting was rather uncertain and a great many fields intended to be planted with that grain lay idle, and unless we have different weather, it will be impossible to sow them even with buckwheat. Oats look very fine, having been sown early in April. Potatoes, when planted on high ground, could not look better. Wheat and rye rather a large growth of straw, but seems well headed, and with favorable weather to ripen and harvest, it will be an abundant crop. The prospect of the hay crop is good, many fields being now lodged, and if fortune should favor us so that we are enabled to get it housed in good condition, we shall probably not get \$50 and \$60 per ton next spring as many did this.

"G. W. T.," New Brunswick, writes:

Hay and grain are good in this section. Heavy rains of first and middle of June considerably damaged corn and early potatoes, lying on the heavy grounds so long as to rot. Rust has not affected the wheat as much as was feared from the heavy rains of June. The oat crop looks to be very heavy. Late potatoes do not look well, but (July 10th) begins to look better.

#### Tennessee.

"A. H. V.," Warren County, Tenn., writes:

The wheat crop in this State is all safe, and is the best for some years. Oats a fall average. Corn, cotton, and all spring crops, promise well. This part of Tennessee is comparatively thinly settled. Lands low, and large quantities being offered for sale. Winters mild, country very healthy. Citizens quiet and orderly, and not only willing, but anxious to have Northern men come and settle among them.

#### From Illinois.

"L. J. A." writes us from Adams County:

Crops are good, wheat has never been better for the last twenty years.

"J. S.," McLean County, June 25, says:

The past two weeks we have had fine weather for corn crops. The 23d inst., the thermometer indicated 96° in the shade, which I believe has been the warmest of the season. Wheat crops look fine generally.

#### West Virginia.

Our correspondent at Wardensville, Hardy County, June 23, says:

We had a severe drouth and a heavy freshet last year in this section—a cold winter, and a cold, wet, and backward spring. Wheat so far looks well; also corn, rye, oats, and grass.

REMARKS.—We should be glad to receive from our agents and correspondents, facts in regard to the average yield of the crops, notes on the weather, matters of local agriculture, &c., from the different sections of the country, for publication under this head. Will our friends favor us with these items on or before the 18th of each month. Several have been received just too late for insertion, and are consequently out of date.—*Eds.*

TRACY FEMALE INSTITUTE.—This is one of the oldest institutions in our city. It enjoys a well earned reputation for rare success in the intellectual, moral, social and physical training of young ladies, and to an extensive and well balanced course of study there has been added the past year, the subject of Floriculture, and to the Art Course, the department of Topographical Drawing—the two latter under the direction of William Webster, the well known landscape gardener—the extracts from whose lectures as published in this paper, are now attracting so much attention. The instructors and accommodations are of the best class, and the charges moderate. For notice of commencement of the ensuing year at this institution, we refer our readers to page 264.

WE desire to call the attention of nurserymen and all those who may have for sale superior plants, flowers, or seeds, to Mr. Webster's advertisement in another column.

FINE STRAWBERRIES.—J. O. Weeks, of West Webster, will please accept our thanks for some extra fine specimens of the Jucunda strawberry. They were of very fine flavor, and large in berry, taking but few to fill a quart, and in our estimation stands second best to Triomphe de Gand. Also for some fine specimens of the Franconia raspberry.

RECEIVED from J. C. Cox & Co., Osborn, O., Catalogue and Price List of thoroughbred stock, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, &c. Mr. C. is a well known breeder of choice stock, and we have no hesitation in saying that all orders sent to this firm will be faithfully filled.

FARMER FOR 1866.—Bound volumes of THE AMERICAN FARMER for 1866, with index complete, will be sent post paid, for \$1.25.

## THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, July 24, 1867.

FLOUR—White wheat, \$16.00@16.50. Red, \$14.50@15.00.  
GRAIN—White wheat, 280@300c. Red, 235@250c. Corn, 100  
@105c. Barley, \$1@1.10. Rye, 180c.  
HOPS—45@55c.  
WOOL—85@40c.  
HAY—\$10@17.  
PROVISIONS—Lard, 18½@14c. Butter, 18@20c. Eggs, 24c.  
Cheese, 10@16c. Potatoes, 50@65c. Dried apples, 7½@8c.

## New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS  
TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, July 22.

BEEVES—Since my last report for THE AMERICAN FARMER, the prices for beef cattle have declined from ¼c. @ 1c. per lb., net weight. In my last report, the highest price for extra beef cattle was 19c. ½ lb., net weight. But to-day 17½c. is the top of the market for such bullocks. The general prices range from 14c. @ 16c. ½ lb., net weight, the purchaser receiving the rough tallow and hides gratuitously. The poorest lots were sold for 12c. @ 13c. ½ lb., net weight. The number of beef cattle received at all the yards for the weekly supply, the past week, is 4,715. The cattle market is declining. The demand is fair for smooth steers; but dealers are required to parley long to get high prices, even for good cattle. Poor ones very slow, at low rates.

MILCH COWS—There is but little done in the line of selling milch cows. Only 58 were received the past week, at all the yards. The prices at which milch cows are sold, range from \$40 to \$150 ½ head. Very few, however, bring more than \$70 each. The general selling price seems to be from \$60 to \$75 per head. If a really good cow is offered for sale, milkmen take her quickly. Two or three fine looking cows were offered for sale; but it was difficult to ascertain the real price received for them, as such cows usually remain in the market several days before a purchaser can be found. Then, when the sale is really made, no one is interested in communicating the facts to reporters when they return to the markets.

CALVES—The best calves will sell readily at 18c. ½ lb., live gross weight. As a general rule, however, the good and the poor are all sold at one price—say about 8c. @ 10c. ½ lb. When the best are separated from the common lots, and the poorest placed together, the latter will not bring more than 5c. @ 8c. ½ lb. At this season of the year, the number of "grassers" is unusually large. As these animals are unfit to slaughter, they cause a dull market, while fat calves sell readily, at paying prices. The number received at all the yards for the weekly supply is 2,082 head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—A good degree of activity has prevailed at all the sheep yards, since my last report. The number of sheep and lambs received for the weekly supply at all the yards, is 27,587, which number is several thousand more than the average weekly receipts during the year. The supply of sheep and lambs is fully equal to the requirements of the trade. Sheep sell for 4c. @ 7c. ½ lb., live weight. A small number may have brought 7½c. ½ lb. Most of the sheep are too poor to slaughter. Lambs of the best quality sell for 10c. @ 12½c. ½ lb., live weight, but they are required to be first-rate to command those prices. Most of the sheep are sold at 5c. @ 6c. ½ lb., live weight. The heavy receipts for the weekly supply have tended to glut the market. But there is a determination to keep up prices, at all hazards. Hundreds of poor sheep are sold at lower prices than any heretofore quoted. When a sheep broker receives a drove of miserable culls he disposes of them as soon as possible, and it is difficult to ascertain the real price obtained for such inferior animals, from either buyer or seller, as they will not give the correct figures.

SWINE—The receipts at the hog yards have been uniformly heavy, every week. The number last week was 16,571. The week previous, 14,610. They are all sold soon after they reach the

city, at some price. To-day the books at the market on Fortieth street, showed the heavy receipt of 18,481 for the present week. Western corn-fed hogs were selling at \$7.68 ½ 100 lbs., live weight, and \$7.88 ½ 100 lbs. for dressed carcasses. The market is fair at the above rates.

GRAIN—Prices have fluctuated alarmingly since my last report, but to-day the demand for good grain is moderate. The vast quantities of wheat shipped from California, and the cheering promise of a heavy crop of this cereal at home, induce speculators to entertain the apprehension that prices will go still lower, rather than any higher. The following is a fair quotation for wheat to-day. To-morrow it may be much less. We quote:

Michigan amber, ½ bushel, \$2.70; No. 2 spring wheat, ½ bu.-h., \$2.15 @ \$2.25; New Jersey amber, \$2.75 @ \$2.80. I saw good lots selling last week, in New Jersey, just threshed, choice Mediterranean, for \$3.00 per bushel. On the 18th inst. I was rusticated near Tom's River, New Jersey, on the beautiful and productive farm of Messrs. J. G. Gowdy, who were then threshing and cleaning their crop of winter Mediterranean wheat, and the price there was \$3 per bushel. But every kernel was well matured and fit for seed. Corn has been much more abundant and depressed in price. The demand has been moderate. Sales have been reported since our last of 84,000 bushels, at \$1.02 @ \$1.07½ for poor to handsome new mixed Western; \$1.05½ for nearly pure yellow do.; 90c. @ \$1.01 for unsound and damp. Rye has been in fair supply and pretty fair request. White end yellow Western and Southern—sales 4,100 bushels, at \$1.55 for Canada, and at \$1.65 for State ½ bushel. Nothing new in barley or barley malt. Oats have been more active, especially hot and inferior lots; sound have been steady, but have been in less request than the poorer grades. New Western at from 80c. @ 92c. for the whole range; poor to prime State, at 91c. @ 92c. in store, ½ bushel; sales, 56,000 bushels.

FLOUR AND MEAL—Are in moderate request, at the present time, and prices are steady, for desirable lots of State and Western brands. Other grades have been dull, and sales slow. Sales are reported to-day of 7,800 bbls., including poor to very choice superfine State and Western, at \$6.75 @ \$8.85; very poor to good extra State at \$8.25 @ \$10.25; good to choice do. do. at \$10.25 @ \$11.50 round-hoop extra Ohio, poor to good shipping brands, at \$10.25 @ \$11.85 ½ bbl. We now quote:

Superfine State and Western.....	6.75	@	8.25
Extra State.....	8.25	@	11.50
Extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c.....	8.30	@	14.00
Extra Ohio, round-hoop, shipping brands.....	10.25	@	11.25
Extra Ohio, trade and family brands.....	11.25	@	14.50
Extra Genesee.....	11.50	@	14.50
Common to choice extra Missouri.....	18.00	@	18.50

Southern flour is quiet but steady; sales have been reported of 500 bbls., at \$9.50 @ \$11.25 for ordinary to fair extra, and \$11.30 @ \$17.50 for fair to choice extra do. ½ bbl. Canadian flour continues inactive at \$10.75 @ \$14.50 for extra ½ bbl.; rye flour has been in less request, at from \$7.25 @ \$9.25 for inferior to very choice ½ bbl.; sales 400 bbls.; corn meal continues in moderate demand, at \$5.70 @ \$5.75 for Jersey; \$5.50 for city, \$5.75 for Baltimore, \$5.80 @ \$5.85 for Fairfax, and \$6.10 for Brandywine, ½ bbl.

The San Francisco Bulletin says that during the month of June, 88,391 barrels of flour were shipped from that place to the Atlantic ports. This was 12,800 bbls. more than were shipped from that place in April.

EGGS—Are in light receipt, and have advanced heavily since our last. None but extra marks of State are sold by the mark, the bulk being sold at actual count of sound eggs.

Jersey, extra brands, per dozen.....	27c	@	29c
State and Penn., do.....	26c	@	27c
Ordinary Western, do.....	20c	@	23c
Western by Express, do.....	23c	@	27c
Canada, do.....	22c	@	26c

POULTRY—Is scarce and in excellent request, at the following rates, wholesale:



Turkeys, per lb.	15c@20c
Fowls, do.	15c@20c
Spring chickens, per pair	60c@1.25
Geese, per pair	\$1.50@2.00
Ducks, per pair	\$1.00@1.25

**POTATOES**—The potato market has fluctuated wonderfully, of late. But now Southern potatoes are lower in consequence of bad order. New potatoes are scarce and in active demand, at a round advance in price.

## NEW POTATOES.

Hermidas, per bbl.	\$4.50 @ \$5.25
Savannah, per bbl.	3.00 @ 3.50
Saskatchewan, per bbl.	3.00 @ 3.00

## OLD POTATOES.

Frenchblows, per bbl.	\$3.00 @ \$3.50
Jackson Whites, per bbl.	3.00 @ 3.50
Prince Alberts, per bbl.	3.25 @ 3.75

**BEANS**—Really good beans are in small supply and receipt and with a fair demand prices have advanced.

Beans, Marrow, hand-picked, per bushel	\$4.20 @ \$4.40
Beans, Marrow, hand-picked, per bushel	4.10 @ 4.25
Beans, Kidney, hand-picked, per bushel	4.25 @ 4.50
Prime Beans, mixed parcels, per bushel	3.25 @ 3.50
Peas, Canada, in bulk, per bushel	1.50 @ 1.50
Peas, Canada, in bulk, per bushel	1.40 @ 1.45

**GREEN FRUITS**—The market for all kinds of fruit fluctuates wonderfully. To-day the demand is active, but to-morrow the price is clear down to the bottom. This is the way dealers make their money, by controlling the market as they please. But producers have to sustain the loss. We quote:

Apples, Virginia, green, per bbl.	\$7.00 @ \$9.00
Apples, ordinary, per bbl.	2.00 @ 5.00
Cherries, Red, per bbl.	10 @ 12
Cherries, White, per bbl.	14 @ 20
Raspberries, Antwerp, per basket	8 @ 9

**HAY**—Has been remarkably dull, at low figures; but at the present writing the demand seems to be improving a trifle. Prices are now firm at \$1.10 @ \$1.10 per 100 lbs. for shipping, and \$1.00 @ \$1.10 for retail and domestic use. Long rye straw is in good request, at \$1.25 @ \$1.30 per hundred lbs. For choice lots, a person can get more than is here quoted. As there are such vast quantities of miserable hay and straw offered in the market, dealers keep the prices down on good hay also, if they can.

**HOPS**—There is an excellent demand for hops for home consumption, at 20c. for poor; 40c. per lb. for fair hops; and 65c. per lb. for fancy hops.

**BUTTER**—The butter market has been quiet for several weeks. The supply is sufficient for the demand. Western stock is accumulating beyond the demand, consequently the tendency of prices is downwards. Dairy men have held back their butter in most instances, quite too long with the hope of obtaining better prices, but the day has gone by for war prices for even the best dairies. The following figures show about the condition of the butter market:

Fresh Pail Butter, per lb.	20c @ 30c
State, Firkins, Yellow, per lb.	26c @ 28c
State, Firkins, Light Colored, per lb.	20c @ 25c
State, Half Firkins, Yellow, per lb.	20c @ 26c
State, Half Firkins, Light Colored, per lb.	14c @ 18c
State, Welsh Tubs, per lb.	18c @ 24c
Western, Firkins, Yellow, per lb.	18c @ 21c
Western, Tubs, Yellow, per lb.	18c @ 20c
Western, Ordinary, per lb.	18c @ 14c

**CHEESE**—All kinds of stock has been forced on the market, much of which is green curds instead of merchantable cheese fairly cured, the result of which being disastrous will cure the evil. No cheese should be boxed for market until it has stood thirty days, and this rule should be strictly followed. Fine cheese has maintained quotations, with sales of extra factories at outside prices, while low grades and improperly made cheese, together with many lots of consigned factories, have been sold at buyers' prices or rejected as trash. The tendency of the English markets is still to lower prices, but it is evident that the bottom is nearly reached, both here and abroad. We quote:

Factory Dairies, extra, per lb.	14c @ 14 1/2c
Factory Dairies, fair, per lb.	12c @ 13c
Farm Dairies, extra, per lb.	12c @ 12 1/2c
Farm Dairies, fair, per lb.	10c @ 11c
Skimmed cheese	7c @ 9c

**WOOL**—The wool market for domestic fleeces is universally dull, and prices are tending downwards, in consequence of an increase in the large receipts of the new clip. No encouragement can be given to farmers who have wool to sell, to hold on for better prices. Manufacturers are very reluctant about purchasing, and the goods market is sluggish enough. Besides these things, wool is arriving from California and Texas, in large quantities, and the most of it is offered at low prices. Domestic fleeces may be quoted at about 40c. @ 45c., for native and one quarter Merino, and 45c. @ 48c. for three quarters Merino, 50c. @ 55c. per lb. for full blooded Merino fleeces, and 55c. @ 65c. for Saxony fleeces; pulled wool, 80c. @ 85c. for No. 1, and 28c. @ 45c. per lb. for superfine pulled wool.

## Special Notices.

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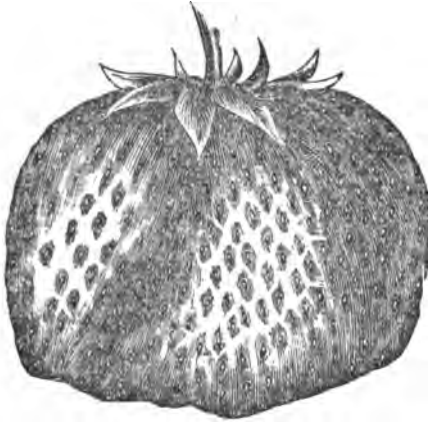
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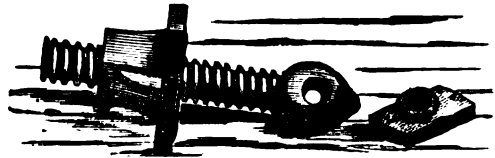
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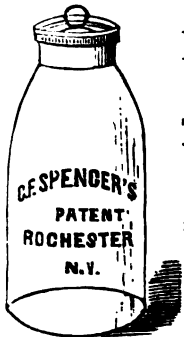
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### THE AMERICAN FARMER.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

### AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

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# THE AMERICAN FARMER

ENTERED according to Act of Congress, in the year 1867, by JOHN TURNER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Northern District of New York.

VOLUME II:

ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1867.

No 9.



I.

Last May we sowed the tiny seed,  
And covered deep in mother earth;  
The embryo burst its husky shield,  
And gave the tender leaflet birth.

II.

All through the sunny month of June,  
The growing plants spread broad and high;  
And all July their lengthening spires  
Gave promise of the fruitage nigh.

III.

When August, faithful workman, plied  
His skill to form and fill the cup  
With every grace, that only needs  
September spoils to fill it up.

IV.

And now comes in the autumn time,  
When flowers, and buds, and shining leaves  
Have changed to piles of golden fruit,  
And heavy laden harvest sheaves.

Belfast, Me.

G. R. B.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

THE harvest is past, summer is ended, and autumn, the third season of the year, comes round, bringing with it relaxation from the extreme toil of seed time and harvest. As a people we never have had more reason for joy and thankfulness than for the bountiful returns which the farmer has now realized. Never were such splendid crops of wheat raised as during the past season, and the prospect for the fall crops is equally encouraging.

**FALL PLOWING**—should now be pushed rapidly forward, and the land got into fine condition for future crops. The ground intended for

**WHEAT**—should be got into the best possible order, well enriched with good barn yard manure, thoroughly incorporated with the soil, and be as free from weeds as possible. From the 10th to the

20th of the month, proves in this section, to be the best time for sowing. After its completion attention should be given to the

**BUILDINGS**.—Examine them, and see where repairs are needed. Give attention to ventilation, as no stock can thrive in badly ventilated stables.

**FATTENING STOCK**—will now require extra feed to keep them improving in condition.

**PIGS**—should be well supplied with straw for litter, and to work over into manure. Feed them liberally with the fallen apples from the orchard. When gathering apples, watch the trees closely for

**CATERPILLARS**—and destroy their nests. Cut them out, and either burn or trample them to death.

**ROADS**.—The importance of good roads every one will admit, and attention should be given to them before winter sets in. Now that farmers have a little leisure, time should be taken to repair roads, or “stir up” those whose business it is to attend to them. We are apt to overlook them during this dry weather while they are in good traveling order, but as soon as the fall rains set in grumbling will be the order of the day from every denizen of the city who goes into the country, and from the farmer, who, owing to the mud cannot get his grain or stock to market.

**TURNIP CROP, &c.**—An English farmer of thirty-five years experience in this country, gives us the following sensible advice as to rotation, and the use of turnips for the better fertility of land:

“It was my practice in England when I sowed my winter wheat on a clover sod, the moment the wheat was harvested, to plow the land and sow about one and a half pounds of Red Top Turnip seed, broadcast, per acre, dragging the land before sowing, and once afterwards. When the plant was up about two inches, I set the drags square, and dragged the whole field in strait lines. I then left it for about one week, and dragged once crosswise, and that was all the cultivation I gave it, and generally had a good crop. I commenced feeding off with about 100 sheep to 10 acres, October 1; penned off about half an acre to begin with, and when they had to

erably cleared the spot, I gave about a quarter of an acre fresh every day, with a movable fence, and thus continued until the food was pretty cleanly eaten, and this took me about two months. The sheep increased in flesh, and were in fine order to go through the winter. The land was sown to barley the next year, which from the droppings of the sheep well manured the land, and gave me a great crop of barley. I have pursued this plan in this State, generally with good success, giving me good feed for the sheep when pasture was short, and manuring the land equal to \$10 per acre."

**FAIRS.**—As this month commences the season of fairs, let us one and all take a holiday and visit the agricultural exhibitions, and there try and learn from others the result of their experience with different cereals, stock, &c., and the intelligent and enterprising farmer cannot but learn a lesson from what he will see at the different State and county fairs throughout the country.

#### AN IDEAL OF FARMING.

YOUNG farmers should endeavor not only to improve upon the farming of their predecessors, but also upon their own. Every year they should resolve to do a little better than they did the last; apply a little more manure, plow a little deeper and finer; pulverize more thoroughly, cultivate their crops more; and generally improve upon the last year's efforts. To this end, the young farmer should conceive an *Ideal* of farming, which he should ever aim to achieve. He would probably never completely attain to his ideal, but he would come nearer to it, and make a better farmer than one who should start with lower aims.

He should look forward to the time when he may become the owner of an elegant *homestead* located in the midst of beautiful natural scenery, surrounded by neat, substantial, and commodious barns, sheds, and other outhouses, capable of sheltering all the stock, grass, grain, wagons and implements of the farm. The dwelling ought not to be exposed to bleak, and chilling winds, but should be protected and adorned by trees, shrubs, and flowers, so arranged as to add to the beauties of the natural landscape. Fruits and vegetables, of every desirable species and variety, should be within easy access of the household. The farm should be stocked with the most profitable breeds of every species of domestic animals from the horse down to the fowl, and even some kinds that are not very profitable might be tolerated—the Peacock, for instance—for their beauty, alone. The farm ought to be subdivided into convenient fields, and the fences strong, durable, and at the same time ornamental.

Every foot of the soil should be brought under the highest state of cultivation. Every obstruction

in the way of stumps, stones, bushes, &c., to the successful operation of all labor-saving machinery, should be removed, and the farmer's hands should never be used to perform any labor that his mind can do as well. These are a few of the features in the farm, and mode of farming that would meet our ideal. Others would probably have a higher ideal, and if all should strive earnestly, patiently, and persistently, to reach *their* highest idea of farming, what a rural paradise we should have!

Young men would then seek to escape from the confinement of the city, and become farmers. Young ladies would hope to become the wives of farmers, and dwell amid such rural scenes, instead of being doomed to pass their lives in a city, compelled to pass through the tedious ordeal of a gay and fashionable life. In fact, then would the farmers' position be as much sought after by all classes in society, as it is now shunned by most of them, and by none more than those who have inherited a farmer's life.

#### A RANDOM LETTER.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT  
BELFAST, MAINE.

HAYING, the hardest work on the farm for the year, is finished, and one has a little time to look round, and breathe more freely. A farmer who don't "hoe in" and make every line draw during haying, will get behindhand if he isn't careful. It's a season of continuous care, watchfulness, and activity, and if he don't occasionally give vent to a cross word, he is worthy of being reckoned more than half a saint.

There is a prevalent idea among city residents, that it is very pleasant to go out into the country among the farmers at this season of the year. Now, we grant it may be very pleasant for them; but it is just the reverse to us. If there is anything a farmer and particularly a farmer's wife decidedly objects to, it is to entertain visitors, and especially visitors from the villages and cities, during the haying season, and if they will persist in coming, they must put up with short answers and brief attention. And this, not from any ill will or lack of courtesy, but it is a necessity—for you know there is a time for everything, and the time for visiting a farmer or his family, is not in haying time. We have no doubt but many have learned this lesson this year; if so, let them not forget it ere a twelvemonth passes round, and to those who have not experience, let this warning suffice.

But when I penned the first words of this article, I had no intention of running off onto the visiting subject. I had purposed to say a few words about recreation—recreation for farmers, for their families, boys and girls, as this is the season when they need

it the most, and also when it is most easily obtained and conveniently enjoyed. One of the most pleasant methods of spending a half day or more, and obtaining the needed rest after the severe labors of haying and grain harvesting, is to get up a picnic. Let the families of a neighborhood—old and young—join together some fine day, and in some grove, or on the shores of some lake in the vicinity, have a good, old-fashioned out-door picnic, each one carrying their share of eatables, and all uniting and having a general good time, not omitting to remember that all hands must get home before sunset, or at milking time. I have not time to go into particulars, but I have “been there,” when such picnics are made occasions of much enjoyment.

The season for the farmer's annual holiday has almost arrived too. I mean the county or town agricultural exhibitions or cattle shows and fairs. Let every farmer patronize them with his family, and also by exhibiting something from his barn, garden, or orchard. Don't be mean, and say it costs so much; don't be selfish, and say it's a “packed” concern; and don't be bigoted, and call it an immorality. If you can help these things, “go in,” I say, and here's success to you; but if you can't, take the best thing you can get. I will allow that too many of our shows and county fairs are far from what they ought to be and could be, but the wise man makes the most of things as they are, instead of mourning for those which are not. So we say, go to the fair by all means, and spend one, two, or three days, and you will never be the poorer in knowledge or experience if you are “out” a couple of dollars or so in the pocket. That's all this time.

### THE HOP CROP.

**EDS. AM. FARMER:**—Since your last number was published hops have made rapid progress. Some of the yards in this region have presented a most beautiful appearance. The foliage is healthy and free from vermin, while the fruit-bearing arms are loaded with masses of fruit of the best quality and of large size. All who have freely applied slacked lime in a state of fine flour, or ground plaster, or both lime and plaster, have saved their crops, even where, as in many cases about here, the yards were attacked by vermin. The insects disappeared after one application. My neighbor, Mr. M. C. Wetmore, who has eleven acres on twine, used lime and plaster in about equal quantities, as soon as the lice made their appearance in his yard, dashing the mixture among the foliage and vines, so as to produce a great cloud of dust, which settled on both sides of the leaves and all about the stems, and the result was the almost total disappearance of the vermin. He has four acres on long poles, which were attacked

in the same way, and upon those he used the plaster and lime, dusting both among the leaves and vines all the way up to the tops of the long poles, with the same result as upon the vines trained low upon stakes and strings, except the labor and waste in effectually dusting the high vines, which were twenty feet above ground, while those on strings should never be over seven feet above ground.

Last Saturday, in Victor, I saw a hop yard of three acres on twine and two on long poles, belonging to Mr. N. Turner, which was greatly damaged by vermin. He at once got a ton of plaster and dusted the yard, and although it was late to attempt to save the yard, I think he will be able to secure half a crop for his trouble. An application of lime and plaster made a little earlier in the season, when the insects first appeared, would have saved the entire crop from their depredations. We will watch the result of this late application.

These practical experiments are important to all hop planters. If this application will save our hops from their worst enemy, and I think there is not a shadow of a doubt of it, it is just what we want, as it is easily obtained and applied, and has a great advantage over other remedies, such as tobacco water, soap suds, and copperas, or the patent medicine. I hear reports of the vermin in most parts of this State. At present the cool nights may help to preserve the crop, but where the vines are rank and the hop yards in a valley, or surrounded by woods or hills, it is difficult to save the crop unless we watch for the enemies and destroy them when they appear. It is better to set yards in exposed situations. If the insects attack them, lime and plaster should be freely used.

The price of hops has remained firm and very high through the year. Last year's crop is nearly consumed, and there will be few, if any hops, to remain over, so there will be a good market for our crop, if we should have a good yield throughout the country. Besides, there is likely to be a foreign demand for our hops at good prices. The price of hops now in England is equivalent to from 70 to 80 cents in our currency, and complaints were made of the blight, a disease unknown to any extent in this country some time since. If there is a short crop over the water, and below the average here, the price will rise high. It will be fair in any event.

I have recently met with a new and very simple device for holding the vine to the stake or pole. Mr. S. Trescott, of Conesus, makes a good use of cast off hoop skirts. He cuts the steel hoops into pieces six inches in length, and bends them to about a circle, so that when the vines are ready to put on the pole or stake, instead of tying with yarn, pack thread or rushes, he slips this steel clasp around the stake and vine, and it holds it firmly in its place, allows room to grow, takes less time than is required to tie vines, and is effectual. At the third hoeing the clasp is slipped off and preserved until wanted the following season. This seems to be the best use yet invented for old hoops. F. W.



## SOME ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN OF DOMESTIC FOWLS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY C. N. BENDIS.



Game Fowl.

To the student of nature, the poultry-yard offers an interesting field. The earliest notice we are aware of occurs in Aldrovandi, one of which sorts is "our common hen, all white, and with a crest like that of a lark," a very useful comparison that will serve to distinguish such like from the Polish fowls.

If birds with such peculiarities were unknown to the ancients, it will be asked through what agency they have made their appearance in our days? Are they a new species, the result of clever combination and nurture, or of mere chance? Not conceiving that they are anything new under the sun, although long unknown to us, we answer, no. The mercantile enterprise, and trading voyages of the English, Dutch, Spaniards, and Portuguese, are quite sufficient to explain their arrival without having recourse to a new creation. We can readily understand how certain points in any race can be confirmed and made more conspicuous by selecting and breeding "in-and-in," but we are at a loss to know how to go to work to produce something quite original and new. If these lost varieties do reappear, and they are both worth the trouble they may give, it will probably be a fresh importation from their original Indian home.

The headquarters of the domestic fowl at the present day are the Islands of Java, Sumatra, and the Malay Peninsula—a vast extent of but partially explored country, seeing that the area of this last alone is very little less than that of Great Britain. But the prospects opened to natural history by Sir James Brooks' occupation of Borneo, and his gradual pacification of the enormous Oriental Archipelago—the suppression of piracy, are scarcely appreci-

ated at this early period. According to *The Quarterly Review* of July, 1848, no regions of equal extent on the surface of the globe supply equally rich and varied materials for commerce, ranging from gold and gems of the costliest kind, down to the humblest necessities of daily life. Throughout the whole twelve thousand islands, at almost every step towards the interior we have discovered some new article of merchandise, some valuable kind of timber, some odoriferous gum, some species of root, fruit, or grain, not yet included in the catalogue of human food, some rich mineral or dye, calculated to improve the beauty of our fabrics; and yet we have hitherto scarcely stepped beyond the threshold of Borneo, Celebas, Patawan, Magindanao, or New Guinea. All beyond the mere fringe of the coast is unknown, though rivers of great breadth and depth court the entrance of steamers, and promise to reveal new lands at every stroke of the paddle. Here is a paradise for poultry fanciers; enough to make one entreat to be admitted into the Sarawak service as an attache and volunteer. What delight in tracing some secluded river, or exploring some lovely valley, to behold in the villages cocks and hens that would sell here for their weight in silver, if not in gold; or perhaps stumble on some unknown peafowl, Guinea hen, and pheasants, a pair of which would draw half the State to view them.

The addition of a fifth toe to the foot, as in the Dorking variety, is more likely than the crest to have supervened in the course of time. We do not find it mentioned by any earlier writer than Columella. From the time of Columella to the present day, a fifth toe has been the well known and distinctive characteristic of a certain breed.

Olivier de Serres says:—"Among the moderns, I am the first that had seen fowls in a state of liberty. On my return from a first voyage to Guiana in 1795, I published a note on the subject of the wild cock and hen, which I have every reason to think natives of the hottest countries of the new continent. In traveling over the gloomy and inextricable forests of Guiana, when the dawn of day began to appear amidst the immense woods of lofty trees which fall under the stroke of time only, I had often heard the crowing similar to that of our cocks, but only weaker. The considerable distance which separated me from every inhabited place could not allow one to think this crowing was produced by domesticated birds; and the natives of these parts who were in company with me, assured me it was the voice of wild cocks. Every one of the colony of Cayenne who have gone very far up the country, give the same account of the fact. Some have met with a few of these wild fowl, and I have seen one myself. They have the same forms, the same fleshy comb on the head, the gait of our fowls, only smaller, being hardly larger than the common pigeon."

Some older travelers have spoken before of these wild fowl of South America. The Spanish Acosta, Principal of the Jesuits at Peru, has positively said that fowls existed there before the arrival of his countrymen, and that they were called in the language of the country, *talpa*, and their eggs, *ponto*. The ancient Mexicans had reduced these small fowls to domestication: they called them, as Gemell informs us, *chisacchi alacca*, and he adds, that they were similar to our domesticated fowl except that they had brownish feathers, and that they are rather smaller.

A fresh testimony, that of a traveler who has been all over Dutch Guiana after me, is again come in support of facts already certain. Capt. Steadman has observed that "the natives rear a very small species of fowls, whose feathers are ruffled, and which seem to be natives of that country."

It is, then, an indisputable fact that a tribe of wild fowl, very much like our cocks and hens, exists in the inland parts of South America. One cannot reasonably suppose that this tribe springs from birds of the same genus which Europeans have transported thither, since they are only met with very far from any inhabited place. Then there is a remarkable difference in the size of these and the common fowl; and according to the assertion of Acosta, they existed in Peru before the arrival of the Spaniards.

## FARMING IN KANSAS AND THE WEST.

### Difficulties of Young Farmers—A Remedy.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER BY "KANSAS."

WHILE the pioneer in Kansas does not experience all the drawbacks and inconveniences which the early settler of the Eastern States met with, still he finds many difficulties to contend against, and privations to endure, which in this progressive age should receive a careful attention and study with a view to their alleviation or entire removal.

The young farmer migrating to the Western States, in nine cases out of ten, comes because he is unable to purchase a farm at the place of his nativity, and he feels it to be the best for him to forego the ties of home and kindred, the advantages of society, and benefits of civilization, and attempt to make a home on the prairies of the West. After gazing about for a while in absolute bewilderment at the extent of Uncle Sam's improved real estate, he finally "takes up" a "claim" and "settles." His real difficulties now begin. His means are limited. Perhaps a part of his time must be spent in labor that will be immediately productive, and this may be hard to get. He can live in a small house of course; if he cannot, he had better not come here. He must have a "field," but with rails at six or eight

cents apiece, and lumber at forty dollars per thousand, he is apt to build his fence light—on the "bloomer" or "Shanghai" plan. It takes half a mile of fence to enclose ten acres. He must have a team and some cows, pigs, chickens, &c. He cannot think of an enclosed pasture for his stock—it must be turned out on the broad prairies to "range." He can tie up the young calves to bring the cows home occasionally. I have known cows to come home for several nights in succession, just as the clock was striking 12—midnight. After a hard day's work it is an aching time to get up to milk; but get up he must, or they will break into "the field," or overturn something. But he cannot work upon the maternal feelings of his team to bring it home in the morning. Some oxen had rather lie in the brush all day than to work. They soon learn to hide. I have seen an ox that would hide in five acres of underbrush so that a man could not find him for two hours constant search.

It is not a flattering prospect for a day's work, to get up in the early morn and "strike out" for the team in the grass, waist high, and loaded with heavy drops of dew, and return at nine or ten, wet, faint, and hungry, to sit down to breakfast. But when the prairie grass begins to get hard and dry, and the corn is ripening, then he will have as much trouble to keep the cattle out of his crop. He cannot leave to go to mill, (and sometimes mills are not handy,) or to church, and it is no particular consolation to him that some of the preaching is not worth going too, without running a risk of loss. What with tending a crop, watching stock, hunting strays, going long distances to mill and to market, getting up wood, doing chores, and running errands, the young single-handed settler has little rest or respite from labor and care. While he is picking his corn his cattle are straying off, and while he is hunting for them his neighbor's big herd breaks into his field. If he does not "watch-out," the prairie fires will destroy his haystacks and his fence. His neighbors are few, and hail from almost every portion of the globe, with few tastes and habits in common, so that society and social pleasures and enjoyments are at best, only tolerable. Churches are weak and scarce, schools ditto; in short, all the advantages of civilization, refinement and wealth are of course wanting on the thinly settled prairie.

Now, in this age of progress, invention, and science, can no remedy be found for this? While those engaged in the pursuits of commerce and manufactures succeed by great associations of capital and labor, and in fact, we might say almost that they succeed only by such associations, cannot farmers learn a lesson—Western pioneer farmers I mean? The prairies of Kansas are especially adapted to farming on a large scale.

The puny efforts of the single-handed squatter look contemptible on the grand expanse of prairie about him. He loses half his time in unproductive but no less necessary labor. He is not able to reap the advantages derivable from the use of improved but costly machinery to perform farm labor, but must plod on in the old antiquated ruts traveled for ages before him? Let one hundred young farmers, having, say only five hundred dollars each, form a joint stock company and settle in Kansas, using the same system and arrangement that a railroad or manufacturing company does, and what business they could do! Agriculture, instead of being a drudgery, would become one of the most attractive of pursuits. Such a company would have its labor divided off in departments, so that the cultivator of the soil need have no care for the herds or flocks. All the heavy labor would be performed by machinery. Care would be saved, labor would be saved, and capital too, for as before observed, it takes one-half mile of fence for a ten-acre field, but ten times as much fence will enclose one hundred times as much land. Society they would take along with them, and churches and schools they need not be without. An agricultural association no more need break up the family, or own property "in common," than a railroad or manufacturing company. It could be carried on with the same system and exactness, have its officers and superintendents, its capital held in shares, and have order in everything. Is it not time that those coming West think on these things and study how they can escape the disadvantages, and make the most of the resources of this

"Fairest land beneath the sun?"

### TEN ACRES TOO MUCH.

BY PROF. O. HOWE GREENE.

WE have been shown, in an interesting volume, how to make "Ten Acres Enough" for a productive farm. Your humble servant will endeavor to show how he found "Ten Acres Too Much."

I had often meditated upon the growing necessity of removing my children to the country where they could learn to breathe fresh air, and enjoy milk that was "the pure juice of the cow," and one evening after tea I broached the subject to Mrs. Greene in this manner:

"My dear!"

"What, love?"

"Ahem! They are spoiling!"

"What's spoiling, dear? The canned peaches?"

"Our boys. We must move out of town, or our boys will be ruined. I have made up my mind to move out a short distance and see if I can find 'Ten Acres Enough' to attend to in connection with my wa business."

"I am afraid you will get enough of ten acres before you have been there long. You told me you knew nothing about farming, and I am sure your attempts at gardening are not a very good guarantee of your success. You remember how you set out top onions, wrong end up, don't you?" was Mrs. Greene's rather sarcastic reply.

"That was merely to cause a *revolution* in the growth of onions," I replied facetiously. "But remember the influences children are exposed to here in the city. Why no longer ago than yesterday, our Charley asked me if I knew the reason why they were about to discharge the organist. I replied I did not. 'Because he can't play *cuchre* on the organ!' was the irreverent reply."

"Oh, my!" and Mrs. Greene looked worried.

"And would you believe it," she added, "our little Otis, so sweet—O 'tis so horrible! He asked me why the letter S was as dangerous to let loose among a car-load of passengers as a young tiger? Of course I could not tell. 'Because it might make *sassengers* of the *passengers*,' was his horrid reply."

But I will not bore the reader with a long account of our proceedings. Be it known, then, we bought ten acres, with its house, barn, fruit, &c., and commenced operations.

Much has been said of the quandary of a young lady compelled to choose a husband from a score of admirers, but it is nothing in comparison to a green-horn selecting farm or garden implements. Everything now-a-days is "first-class;" at least I never saw anything second-class advertised; even the one store at the cross-roads is a "first-class" store.

Implements procured, the next thing was the stock.

The first purchase was a cow "part Durham," her owner said. He didn't say which part was Durham, but I am inclined to think it was the stomach; that beat the "natives" all hollow, and seemed to be "all hollow" still.

Job had a great many cattle, but I don't believe he had a "part Durham" cow like mine. Just imagine Mr. Job milking her. He is just ready for "stripping," when down comes a "part Durham" hoof into the midst of a pailful of "part Durham" milk, and Mr. Job lies flat on the ground with a pair of spoiled pantaloons. (You must imagine Job with pantaloons on.) Now see if he is patient.

"Our Charley" is a poet. (He resembles his pa very much in this respect.) Here is the first stanza of some lines he composed on "Our Cow," and set to the tune of "Johnny Comes Marching Home." The substitution of cents for dollars in the price of the cow is, of course, an allowable poetical license:

"I bought a cow for fifty cents,  
Co-boss! Co-boss!  
I bought a cow for fifty cents,  
Co-boss! Co-boss!  
I bought a cow for fifty cents,  
And she skedaddled over the fence,  
And I have never seen her since;  
O, we'll all feel gay, boys,  
When that old cow comes home."

This is *true* poetry—literally true.

Our second cow, however, was a success, and "Cherry," the muley, was soon a family pet.

My next purchase was of chickens. I had seen such contradictory statements regarding different breeds that I determined to try two of each of all the prominent breeds, and form my conclusions from experience. I did so, and purchased Black Spanish, Poland, English Pheasant, French, and so on, from Bantam to Shanghai, via East Indies, and return. The result was I soon had an exhibition of European politics, on a reduced scale, in my own barn yard; and, as is always the case, poor Poland got the worst of it. This "balance of power" performance was quite interesting to me, as I was involved financially; so I rushed into the house to procure some means of restoring "peace in the family," and when I came out, after a short delay, there was an entire "change of base." An Irish neighbor of mine kept a game rooster, armed with "gaffs" for fighting purposes, and behold he had made a "Fenian raid" upon my premises during my brief absence, had "cleaned out" Poland, English, and French, and was now employed with my only Black Spanish rooster. I "welcomed the invader with bloody hands to a hospitable grave," with a stick of wood, and missed him. He darted "over the border." I had no Uncle Sam to intercept him, and the "invader of domestic peace" escaped. My best fowls were ready to "go to pot." However, I sought consolation in Shanghai, relied on Brahma Pootra, buried my grief in Bantam, and determined not to be chicken-hearted.

But I was not yet through with troubles. A few nights after I was aroused from profound slumber by an agitation of my corporosity, and the voice of Mrs. Greene exclaiming:—"Mr. Greene, say! Mr. Greene! Otis, my dear, wake up! There is a sk—sk—squawking in the hen roost!"

I arose hastily and sallied forth. On reaching the hen roost I found my distinguished Asiatic bipeds falling before the deadly ravages of that great "scenter" of all creation, the American skunk.

"Theo," whom the boys call my "rattan terror," made short work of the material skunk, but a certain ethereal portion remained with the dog for a long time. I gathered together the remnants of my flock, and began again, with the additional conviction derived from experience that you cannot keep fowls profitably unless you have a vermin-proof hen roost.

My next purchase was two pigs—they were nice Chester Whites. Major Coats, my neighbor, came over to see them. The Major was originally a tailor. His family are distinguished for military prowess. The Major was all through the Buckeye and Wolverine war—in every battle. At the breaking out of the rebellion his two sons were about the first to go—they went to Canada, I believe.

The Major looked at my pigs a long time, revolving something in his mind, and a quid of tobacco in his mouth, and then asked.

"What breed be they?"

"Chester Whites."

"Chester Whites! where does he live?" inquired the Major, dropping his under jaw, and rolling his quid "like a sweet morsel under his tongue," for an instant.

"In Pennsylvania—that is, there is where the breed originated," I replied, with a slight cough.

After some sage advice the Major left me, with an invitation "come up."

A few days after, I "went up" to the Major's. He took me to see his sheep. He said he wasn't going to waste money on these "highfalutin," rams. He raised his own rams, and grade sheep were good enough for him. "But," said I, "Major, that's retrograding, a kind of *grading* sheep that don't pay." The Major told me I was young yet, and had a good many humbugs to learn. I read too many of these "hanged agricultural papers." He invited me into the house, and his daughters requested me to sing. I complied, and among other things, I gave them a "medley" song, arranged by myself, a copy of which I append for the "amusement, instruction, and moral elevation" of your readers:

I have come from the mountains  
Of the old Granite State,  
Where the hills are so lofty,  
Magnificent and great,  
I have left—  
Home, home, sweet, sweet home;  
There's no place like home;  
There's no place like—  
Hall, Columbia, happy land,  
Hall, ye heroes, heaven-born band,  
Who fought and bled—  
In days of auld Lang Syne, my boys,  
In days of auld Lang Syne.  
Wreaths, glorious wreaths for—  
The star-spangled banner, O long may it wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of—  
Yankee doodle, who came to town,  
Upon a little pony,  
He stuck a feather in his cap  
And called it—  
The last rose of summer left blooming alone.  
All its lovely companions are  
Away down South in Dixie,  
Away! Away!  
In Dixie's land I took my stand—  
Ere the twilight bat was flitting,  
Neath the sunset, at her knitting,  
Sang a lovely maiden, sitting—  
O, I should like to marry,  
If I could only find

Some very handsome fellow  
Just suited to my—  
Thump, thump, scold, scold,  
Thump, scold away.  
Its gone, the comfort of the house—  
Down where the patriot army,  
By Potomac's side,  
Guards the glorious cause of—  
My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing.  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountain's side,  
Let freedom ring.

When I closed, the Major said: "That's a pooty song; a little mixed up like; but the tune don't amount to shucks."

I thanked him (?) for his criticism, and soon after returned home.

When I reached home, I found "a tree peddler" awaiting me. The men in "buckram" business had considered me too insignificant, but this propagator of the "apples of discord" thought me an easy victim. I told him I had "read about him" in *The Western Rural*, the best ag—

"*The Western Rural* be d—d," and away he went, leaving a "mill privilege" behind for the whole agricultural press.

But enough of details in learning a new business, suffice it to say that before a year passed I found "Ten Acres Too Much" for me to attend to properly in connection with other business; so I sold three acres, and applied the proceeds upon the remainder.

And glad am I that I discovered that Ten Acres was not only *enough*, but in my case, entirely *too much*.—*Western Rural*.

### LIFE INSURANCE.

Messrs. Eds.:—Allow me to call attention through the columns of your valuable periodical to one of the most popular institutions of the day, and yet an institution comparatively in its infancy, and as yet but little understood—I refer to the subject of Life Assurance—an interest which protected and regulated by the laws of our State, and whose benefits are daily attested by most striking illustrations, has within the past five years exhibited a growth unparalleled among the public institutions of our country. The American people seem determined to take the lead in all humanitarian institutions. Whatever promises to elevate society, relieve misery, and guard and purify the sacred interests of the fireside, enlist their hearty support. For example, the old world was lost in wonder at beholding the sacrifices made by our countrymen in support of the government in the late war; but Europe could find *water cause* for admiration in contemplating the *ish* contributions distributed through the Sanitary

and Christian Commissions freely offered in the sacred name of charity.

A life assurance company is nothing more or less than a great trust company, whose scope and object is the protection of families, and the interests of the home circle. Its strongest appeals are made to our affections, and its most convincing arguments are those which are addressed to, and remind us of our moral obligations.

It undertakes not to extend the future, but to provide for its possibilities, not to lengthen life, but to make provision for death. Every principle of affection and every precept of prudence commend it, and life assurance is to-day sanctioned and supported by the most intelligent men of our country. We predict that the day is not far distant when its advantages will be universally appreciated, and the insurance of life be deemed more important than the insurance of property, for every one has a *life*, but not all have *goods* and *chattels*—and the time is not distant when that man will be deemed pre-eminently a gambler, who through indifference neglects the opportunities of the present and entrusts his dearest interests to the uncertain chances of the future. To the rich farmer it offers an opportunity for investment which will remain secure amid the fluctuations of business, and the insecurity of fortune. To the poor, it affords a guaranty for the protection of his loved one. It provides a certainty for an uncertainty, gives the sense of security which all desire, but which so few feel, and invests the misty future with an aspect of cheerfulness instead of vogue foreboding.

Rarely has this beneficent institution of life assurance been more clearly illustrated and its advantages exhibited in so clear a light as in a case which recently came under my own observation. A young merchant just starting in business, and only twenty-five years of age, having had his attention called to the subject, became convinced of its benefits, and on the twenty-third day of March took a policy of \$8,000 in the company whose advertisement appears in your periodicals for the sole benefit of his wife and child. Three days thereafter, while apparently in perfect health he took a severe cold, congestion followed, and on the 18th day of April he died, it being less than four weeks from the date of his policy. Within six days after proof of his death had been furnished to the company his widow received a check for the full amount of the insurance.

Thus secured by law, and reduced to an almost perfect system, and sanctioned by every dictate of prudence and affection, I would unhesitatingly commend the subject of Life Assurance to your numerous readers, as one of the most practicable and beneficent institutions yet devised for the amelioration of want and misery.

RUSTICUS.



GROUP OF THOROUGH BRED MERINO EWES.  
OWNED AND BREED BY ISAAC J. WHITNEY, CLARKSON, MONROE COUNTY, N. Y.

## OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

### ON THE MOST DESIRABLE BREED OF CATTLE

SUITED TO THE EXTREME COLD OF NORTHERN WINTERS—THE CONSUMPTION OF THE LEAST AMOUNT AND COARSEST FOOD, AND THE BEST PRODUCER OF BEEF BEING THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENTS.

BY AUGUSTUS SINTZENICH.

THIS is a question of considerable importance to the farmers and stock raisers of the Northern States and the Dominion of Canada, inasmuch as it embodies the most prominent practical points, which must determine, other things being equal, the selection of a definite and profitable breed for these portions of the continent. There are three leading requisites in the proposition for this essay.

1. The *breed of cattle* most adapted to long, cold, and severe winters.

2. The breed, which by constitution, habit, and physical characteristics, being preferable on the score of *climate*, will thrive and improve on the *least amount of, and coarsest food*; and

3. Both these elements being combined, must result in reference thereto, as contrasted with other breeds, in the production of the largest and best quality of *beef*.

The question of climate in our Northern States, is one which has, to a very great extent, determined the selection and adoption of all classes of animals known in the farm economy, whether for beasts of burden, producers of wool, milk, or meat. For this reason many valuable breeds of farm stock which have obtained popular pre-eminence in the old world, have simply on account of our more severe seasons, been adopted to a limited extent, or been crossed with more hardy, or native varieties. Just in proportion as foreign breeds with their beautiful points and high-bred excellencies, have shown an adaptability and power to thrive in our climate, just in that proportion have they been adopted into the native stock, and now form our most improved breeds. This is especially true of the Shorthorns, which have attained to a universal popularity as combining more excellencies and a more thriving condition in our climate than any other imported cattle stock. Mr. Howard, in his recent interesting lecture in England on "the agriculture of America," testifies to this fact, and says that the Shorthorns thrive even better in the climate of America than in England, and pointed out several of our prize animals as proof of his assertion; while Ayreshires, 'derneys, Devons, &c., have not been raised to the same extent, because they are more delicate, sus-

ceptible to cold, and do not combine as many desirable qualities as the Shorthorns, though in many points in detail, excelling them.

We shall, for the reasons here alluded to, dismiss further reference to other breeds as answering the requirements named in the essay, and refer again to the Shorthorns, whose claims have hitherto remained undisputed as the most desirable breed of cattle, all things considered, for our climate and country. While we are not disposed to disparage them, we challenge their claims on the points named as the subject of this essay. Shorthorns present some serious defects of character which cannot be overlooked in a permanent standard breed for our northern climate. They are high feeders, and will not mature and fatten well, unless fed with a rich quality of food, and warmly housed. They are comparatively slow to fatten, and do not produce meat equal in quality to the nature and amount of feed consumed. They are thin-skinned and delicate in constitution, and in order to attain and hold their best condition require in addition to high feed, warm shelter and careful attention. We shall therefore object to them as a breed fitted to fulfill the important requisites named in the essay.

From an intimate knowledge of the climate of Great Britain, Canada, and the Northern States of this Union, we have no hesitation in asserting the claims of the GALLOWAY cattle, as the only breed which combines thorough hardiness, capacity to resist the cold of our long and severe winters, and whose powers of endurance from winter weather and exposure, and ability to thrive and fatten on a comparatively scant and poor diet—are without a rival. Their beef is superior to any other known breed, and pasture-fed alone, will produce a meat pre-eminent in quality.

The Galloways are thoroughly hardy in constitution, thrive in cold and inclement seasons, and fatten on coarse hay, straw, or herbage, but on access to pasture in the spring, will improve more rapidly, and be in condition for market earlier than kindred varieties. The hide is thick, and covered with a fine curly, silky hair, *always* of a jet black color. Youatt says they are "strait and broad in the back, and nearly level from the head to the rump. They are round in the ribs, and also between the shoulders and the ribs, and the ribs and the loins. In roundness of barrel and fulness of ribs they will compare with any breed."

Rev. Mr. Smith, a Scotch breeder of eminence, says:—"The Galloway is short in the leg, and moderately fine in the shank bone—the happy medium seems to be preserved in the leg, which secures hardihood and a disposition to fatten. With the same cleanness and shortness of shank, there is no breed so large and muscular above the knee, while



there is more room for the deep, broad, and capacious chest. He is clean, not fine and slender, but well proportioned in the neck and chops." And again:—"The Galloway is covered with a loose mellow skin, which is covered with soft, silky hair. Even on the moorland, where the cattle during the greater part of the year are fed on the scantiest fare, it is remarkable how little their hides indicate the privations they endure."

Mr. Stephenson Scott, an American stock breeder, says in "Skinner's American Farmer":—"I am inclined to think that some of the Scotch cattle are better calculated for our country than any of the large English breeds, and particularly the best polled Galloway. They are hardy, and thrive almost anywhere, and these cattle are large enough for all purposes and pastures."

*The Farmer's Magazine* says: "They look just the animals for a rough, bleak district; long, low, active, with rough, black coats, and plenty of thick, curly hair—they show every sign of a vigorous constitution, and thorough capability to cope with climate."

The beef of Galloway cattle is very superior and is most inquired for in the great markets of London, where it commands the highest price. It is easily distinguished by its fine, fresh, *marbled* appearance and rich color; round, plump, and the fat well laid on.

In regard to weight and size, an imported bull of John Snell, of Canada, (one of the leading Canadian breeders of the Galloway,) weighed at 2 years and 5 months old, 1830 pounds.

The Galloways are average good milkers. The cows do not yield as much in quantity as the Alderneys or Ayrshires, but the milk is rich, giving a yield of butter above the average. Youtt says:—"A cow that gives from twelve to fourteen quarts per day is considered very superior, and that quantity produces more than a pound and a half of butter. Mr. Snell, Edmonton, Canada, says the Galloways produce as much in quantity as the Short-horns, but the former is much the richer milk."

In conclusion, we quote the opinion of B. P. Johnson, Secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, who says of the Galloways in reference to their adaptability to this country:—"There is no doubt of their adaptation to many portions of the Northern States. Their aptness to fatten is such that they would at comparatively little expense, be fitted for market, and the superiority of their beef is well understood by every one acquainted with the London market; and if introduced here, they would doubtless become equally popular. I was asked by a distinguished breeder in this State, which among the various breeds of cattle in Great Britain, I considered best adapted to the Northern States? I answered, that if it was left to me to select, I

would have no hesitation in choosing the Galloways or West Highlanders."

In disposition, the Galloways are remarkable for docility and gentleness, and the absence of horns makes them entirely free from danger, which cannot be said of any other breed. The bulls are equally tame, and it is seldom that a disposition to wildness is found among them.

We therefore, in view of the characteristics of the various breeds considered in reference to the "extreme cold of Northern winters, the consumption of the least amount and coarsest food, and the best producer of beef," pronounce the Galloway as by far the most deserving of classification as our most desirable breed for these purposes.

It is certainly matter of very great surprise that stock growers and farmers in the North have hitherto neglected this desirable and valuable breed of cattle. Our more enterprising Canadian farmer friends find them perfectly adapted to their country, and are importing and increasing their stock, till at the present time the Galloways are well represented in all parts of the Dominion. 59 Galloway cattle were exhibited at the Fair last year at Toronto, and among them were several superb animals. For the information of such as may wish to introduce this noble breed, we refer to John Snell, Edmonton, Canada.

### ON THE MOST DESIRABLE BREED OF CATTLE

SUITED TO THE EXTREME COLD OF NORTHERN WINTERS—THE CONSUMPTION OF THE LEAST AMOUNT AND COARSEST FOOD, AND THE BEST PRODUCER OF BEEF BEING THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENTS.

BY R. C. KENDALL.

I put in as my first favorites and competitors for the prize, the KERRIES. Not much beauty about a Kerry certainly; but then an essay upon the prettiest breed, &c., is not asked for. Almost anything bovine is handsomer than a Kerry cow. A little, black, bob-tail, sway-back, pot-bellied, crumple-horned scrub; but as Dennis O'Flaherty says:—"Be me sowl, now, if its the swate crame an' goolden buther, an' laahins uv illegant buthermilk ye're likin' faith its the little black divil that's as purty as she's good."

In Ireland, they drive the KERRIES up and down to Dublin, and pen them up in shabby shambles, half-starving, and two-thirds choking, for a week; then crowd, pack, and jam them in on the deck of one of the dirty "drags" they call the "Royal Dublin Channel Steam Packets," that transports them to Liverpool, whence they are driven to Manchester, Birmingham, and many of the interior cities, bel

preferred by those who can afford to keep a cow, but have no place to keep her—nothing to keep her on—to any of the English breeds; because, in the first place the Kerry costs only about a quarter so much as a native; and more, because she will eke out her own living where no other animal wearing horns can.

Many of the Kerries are driven across the kingdom, and in the Smithfield market maintain the "call" for suburban milkers against the best dairy stock of England. At Hounslow, Islington, Wighton—wherever there are commons, cropped as close as plush velvet—very "short commons,"—you may see the little Kerries, looking sleek and thriving, shearing the half inch of pasturage a line or two closer, and every day contributing more towards the support of her master's or mistress' household, than the earnings of the whole family combined. In all the lanes and byways of the great British Babylon, one may see any day, summer and winter, if he will take the pains to wander that way and look, little scrub Kerries cropping out a comfortable maintenance, keeping up a respectable appearance, and giving milk, where a Durham, Devon, Alderney, or even an Ayrshire, would perish of famine in a week.

The milk of the Kerry cow is almost invariably of the very richest quality, and in quantity much greater, taking the difference in size into consideration, than the best of England's dairy animals. The average yield of milk per cow, per day, from the scrub Kerries that board themselves about the suburbs of London, Birmingham, and other cities, is about nine quarts.

For beef stock the Kerries are equally valuable, the flesh being compact, juicy, fine-grained, and sweet, weighing ten per cent more, inch for inch measurement, than that of the best beef breeds of English cattle. It is not unusual to see in the Dublin market at the same stall, half a dozen hind quarters going each over three hundred pounds. We had once in the old Garrick packet ship of the New York and Liverpool "Dramatic Line," a Kerry cow that in fair weather and foul, "blow high, blow low," always on ship's fare, used to give us sixteen quarts per day of milk that was more like cream, keeping all the time fat, until one day in a gale of wind, a whole Atlantic boarded us, knocking all our deck hamper into everlasting smash, and breaking both poor Norah's fore legs, which obliged us to kill her, and cut her up for beef. The dressed carcass weighed a trifle short of 1,050 pounds.

In the Selkirk settlement, pretty well towards the north side of Canada, where Capt. Dambanger says fire freezes, and the winters are fourteen months long—but in reality where the winters are almost Siberian, the Kerry stock having been proved hardier more economical than any other, have been voted as the favorite.

At the sealing stations, Victoria and Alberttown, and adjacent settlements within Frobieher's Strait, I saw everywhere little black, Kerry cows, averaging, I believe, two to every household, all looking sleek and fat, pasturing on the dwarf lichens and scanty herbage, giving from six to sixteen quarts per day of such rich, creamy milk, as I have never seen from the best dairy cows in England or the United States. In the long winters of that latitude there is no hay feeding, no corn, or slops for Kerry, only heaps of dried lichens, and bundles of ferns and twigs of birch, with free browsing of alder and juniper. And yet on such fare for eight months consecutively, the cows fall off less in their milk supplies than do our dairy cows in the United States, though stabled and bedded, petted, and pampered on carrots, cut and cooked food, and the brightest and best of hay.

I believe that a genuine, full-blooded Kerry cow, left to her own resources, and given the free run of fields, roads and woods, in any of our midland regions, would carry herself independently through the winter, keeping in fair condition, and giving milk, if not out of milking season.

I believe that the Kerries would in this country make superior dairy stock, because the Kerry cheese is the richest I ever tasted, the butter of Kerry equal to any made elsewhere in the world, because they milk longer, keeping up a maximum supply, than any of our dairy stock, because the milk is richer, making considerably more butter or cheese per gallon, than that of any of our imported, grade, or native cows, because the average annual cost of keeping would be at least a third less than that of our more pretentious, showy, dairy animals; and lastly, because the Kerries, though notorious vagabonds, if left quite free to ramble wherever they choose, are nevertheless quiet, kindly in disposition, gentle in habit, amiable and docile, and would not break through a pasteboard fence, or leap four rails, though tempted by such a feast as cow never before was seduced by.

Within five miles of me at this present time, a relative has a genuine, full-blood Kerry cow that went dry on board one of our Liverpool packet ships, and he purchased her from the captain for thirty dollars—a little, black, stump-tail, long-haired, crumple-horned scrub. "Little Ugly," after coming in fresh, gave her twenty quarts of milk a day, right on consecutively for six months, averaging ten pounds of butter per week during the time, with no special or extra feeding. "Little Ugly" is dry now, coming in in about five weeks. But Jack can take \$175 for his Kerry, from any one of a dozen bidders in the neighborhood.

In my opinion, the only reason why the Kerries have never become favorites with us is, because they are ugly, and stock fashion has its fancies as well as all others, looking more to beauty than utility.

## FARMING IN MINNESOTA.

BY MRS. E. H. L.



MINNESOTA—thanks to the market for its bulky staple, wheat, afforded by the mighty "Father of Waters," is destined to be a great farming country. Despite the scarcity of timber and water in some portions of the State, the incursions of the savages, and the check of foreign immigration during the war, it has been settled with great rapidity.

The population is of a mixed character, like that of Wisconsin. The farmers keep but little more stock than each one needs for his own use; sheep are gradually finding their way into the older settlements, and do well. Orchards are being planted everywhere, but not with the greatest or most uniform success. Yet apples, plums, berries, and all the hardier fruits, are grown by those who know how, even to the northern limits of the State.

Wheat is our main crop. The soil is generally a smooth prairie, undulating more or less in the eastern portion, but rich, and of the best quality for wheat-growing. It yields from twenty to thirty-five bushels year after year, without rest, manure, or rotation of crops. In some localities the grain is cut with a reaper that takes only the heads of the grain, which is usually threshed in the field as soon as possible, and the straw plowed under.

The fences are mostly board, which are hauled from the Mississippi during winter, the farmer taking wheat there, and bringing back lumber. From Chain Lake west, timber is abundant, water more plenty, and both of excellent quality. Schools, churches, railroads, &c., are fast finding a welcome among the intelligent farmers of Minnesota, who realize the vast importance of these stepping-stones to true prosperity, and that glorious future which awaits the great West.

## MANURING HOPS.

AMONG the manures recently employed for growing hops in England, are those which supply to a greater or less extent ammonia and phosphoric acid. These form the composition of two important fundamental classes of artificial manures, phosphatic and nitrogenized. Phosphatic manures, it is said, tend to promote the quality of the hops, but not the quantity. Among these manures may be enumer-

ated fresh bones, bone dust, bones treated with sulphuric acid, phosphatic matter of Saldanha Bay and Patagonian guano.

Animal matter of all descriptions, rape cake, farm yard manure, nitrogenized matter, such as wool, blood, flesh, Peruvian guano, soot, woolen rags, shoddy, putrid animal substances, horn shavings, glue refuse, &c., are all very conducive to the growth of the hop plant.

Mr. Troutbeck, in an essay before the Maidstone Farmers' Club, (England,) says that after selecting the land for hops, the most important consideration is its drainage, and he advises that if the land has not a good natural drainage it should be thoroughly drained at a no less depth than four feet. In preparing the land for hops, he would avoid burying the surface soil, and says it will depend upon circumstances as to how far it may be desirable to mix some of the surface soil with some of the subsoil. On the heavy clays of Kent, there is frequently a deficiency in lime and phosphoric acid, and he remarks that most satisfactory results have been had from an application of a compost made of lime and vegetable mold—the cleansing of ditches and ponds and fresh burned lime, while the addition of bone dust or half-inch bones, greatly increase the fertility and improve the quality of the hop.

In the management of farm yard manures for the hop, he advises the employment of hop vines as a litter in part for domestic animals. Farm yard manure made from hop vines, he remarks, is not only a source of food to the plant, but is one of those which opens up the storehouse of unavailable food. While it is undergoing decomposition, it is yielding certain substances capable of acting upon the soil, and of transferring from the unavailable to the available category—of putting in that condition in which the plant can absorb them—the matters of which it is in need. He states it as his belief that well made and well managed farm yard manures from fattening animals, when the hop vine is employed in part as a litter, to be one of the best and most perfect manures, inasmuch as it contains every substance the plant requires. It is to the use of this manure that he attributes in part the success of many of the hop growers in Kent.

He is in favor of applying farm yard manures in a rotten state, and recommends getting it into heavy soils in the autumn, as by so doing there is less loss. In cases where the hop grower is compelled to use any substance very soluble and powerful, he believes the best mode is to divide into small quantities and apply it at various times during the season. In the case of lands inclined to be light, or lands rich in phosphates, he would use sparingly of substances rich in ammonia, and would resort to a mixture, which, although not containing much ammonia, is capable of leaving it.—*Utica Herald*.

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Stirring the Soil.**

Repeated stirring of the soil we regard as almost, if not quite as essential to good and successful cultivation as manure. Indeed, we have known good crops taken from land that was counted as "too poor to raise beans," by merely repeated plowings and harrowings. Expend money first in draining, if you have heavy, clayed, or naturally wet soils; then plow, plow, plow, as often and deeply as you please. The more and oftener and deeper the soil is stirred, the better will trees or plants grow and fruit. The mechanical action of the soil, and its permeability to atmospheric influence are too often lost sight of, and many a piece of ground on which manures have been placed until it has got to be what is termed "fat" and unproductive, only needs repeated stirrings and opening to the action of atmospheric elements to bring it to the highest and most profitable condition.—*Horticulturist*.

**Cure for Colic in Horses.**

"Turfman," in *The American Stock Journal*, gives the following remedy:—A great many valuable horses are annually killed by being drenched with various medicines recommended by quacks. Let me tell your readers the best remedy for either flatulent or spasmodic colic that I have ever seen tried. It is to give copious injections of warm water to move the bowels, and when that is done your horse is safe. I have seen many horses cured by this treatment, and none killed. All so treated have speedily recovered. If drenching will be persisted in, take a handful of ground ginger and put it in a quart of water, and let it boil for fifteen minutes, and when it cools pour it down the throat of the horse. This warms the stomach and bowels, and is an excellent remedy. Let any person violently attacked with colic, drink ginger tea, thus prepared, and he will find speedy relief. And what is good for man in sickness is good for a horse with the same sickness. Man is an animal, as well as a horse; and medicines good for the disease of one are good for the disease of the other, the world over.

**Onion Ground.**

In a recent number of the *Iowa Homestead*, "C. A. S." of Dubuque, gives his practice in the autumnal preparation of the ground for onions. Prepare it in the fall by manuring and plowing, working it till the soil is well mixed and commingling with the manure to the depth of eight or ten inches. Then roll or tramp the ground hard, top-dress it with ashes, and leave it till the ensuing season. When the frost is out in the spring, and the ground sufficiently dry to work, rake it over with an iron tooth rake to the depth of three or four inches, and put in the seed. This is all the spring preparation required. The most successful onion grower we ever saw, managed pretty much in the way here recommended, though the fall preparation was omitted. The onion beds were well manured and the ground stirred to a good depth. It was then raked and trampled down compactly. An onion planter, with two iron shovel teeth, set apart the width of the onion rows, and handled like a hoe, was drawn across

the beds, and the seed dropped in the furrows and covered an inch deep or thereabouts. The result was that the onions grew upon the top of the ground—profuse in quantity and excellent in quality. We should think the Iowa plan, of a fall preparation of the ground an improvement. It is certainly worth a trial.

**Cleansing Wool of Gummy Matter.**

*The Maine Farmer* gives the following:—Take one pound of saleratus for twelve pounds of wool, dissolve in water not quite boiling hot, then put in the wool and stir occasionally for one hour; take it out and squeeze it thoroughly, or what is better, run through a clothes wringer, rinse in cold water, and spread on grass ground to dry. This process will remove all gum and dirt from any kind of wool, and make it much better for custom work.

**True's Potato Planter.**

The testimony of one of our most intelligent and enthusiastic farmers was recently given for this new Maine invention, and a machine that deserves to be more generally introduced among our farmers than it is. In order to obtain a machine he purchased the patent right for the county in which he resided—the agent would not sell a single machine—and the gentleman's testimony was, that it paid for itself the first year. He planted twelve acres of potatoes and performed the work as easily with the planter, as he could have planted two acres by hand. This is a strong commendation in its favor.—*Maine Farmer*.

**The Difference between the Soil and Subsoil.**

Beneath the surface soil in which we place our seed, and which is moved by the passage of the plow, we find what is commonly styled the subsoil, which though most similar to, is often very different in composition from the surface soil. Though it does not contain the decayed vegetation which exists in the surface soil, it often contains much fertile matter which if brought to the surface would do much to enrich the surface soil. This is particularly the case when a hard, retentive subsoil underlays a rich, loose one; the lime, iron, magnesia, and saline constituents of the surface soil, having a greater specific gravity than the soil on which they lay, or to which they are applied, naturally sink until they find a soil of their own gravity, which, if the subsoil is hard and retentive, is usually in the upper strata or layer thereof. This is of great and vital importance in subsoiling, for it is evident that in a subsoil of this kind, it would be very bad policy to bring to the surface six or seven inches of the subsoil.

Nor are the saline constituents of the soil all that are found enriching the subsoil, for anything valuable in the upper soil is soluble, and however hard and compact the subsoil may appear to be, it is more or less penetrated by water, which takes with it and deposits the fertility of the surface soil. It often happens that the farmer who practices subsoiling will on this account receive more benefit from the first brought to the surface than from any subsequent operation.

The following analysis of the surface soil with its adjoining subsoil from the banks of the Ohio, made by Johnson, will probably best show the difference between the two. They were found to contain of—

	SOIL.	SUBSOIL.
Silica.....	87.148	94.861
Alumina.....	5.666	1.876
Oxide of iron.....	2.220	2.226
Oxide of manganese.....	0.260	1.300
Lime.....	0.554	0.245
Magnesia.....	0.813	0.810
Potash.....	0.120	0.110
Soda.....	0.025	0.180
Phosphoric acid.....	0.050	trace.
Sulphuric acid.....	0.027	0.084
Carbonic acid.....	0.080	trace.
Chlorine.....	0.086	trace.
Humic acid.....	1.804	trace.
Organic substances.....	1.011	trace.
Insoluble humus.....	1.079	trace.

From the observations we can readily see that the effect of subsoil plowing and trenching will vary with the character of the subsoil; if the latter is hard and compact it will probably arrest the downward passage of the water containing the valuable portions of the surface soil, which upon being again brought to the surface will of course enrich the surface soil; but if on the other hand the subsoil is light and loose, and of a texture not calculated to retain the saline constituents brought from above, they will pass through it, and when it is turned up it may for a time decrease the crops, for the only benefit gained seemed to be that of deepening the surface soil, which even of itself is an important one. This may in a great measure account for the varied success which always attends subsoil plowing, and a more careful attention to the difference may be the means of preventing much disappointment, as has been the case with your new correspondent, but old reader.—*Great Valley in Germantown Tel.*

### Spavin.

Bone spavin is a blemish which occurs on the inside or hinder postern of the hock joint, and is an ossified or bony tumor. It occurs at all periods in the life of a horse, and is usually induced by a strain of the ligaments, followed by inflammation. The hock joint is made up of several bones, but two of which are usually affected; they are called the scaphoid and cuneiform magnum. These bones rest upon each other, and are superimposed upon the metatarsal or long bones, and turning but very slightly on each other, being fastened almost to immobility by ligaments, which become inflamed in consequence of strains, and ossification ensues. Attached to the extremities of the tendons terminating in the hock are small sacks of mucous secretion, designed to lubricate the parts and permit the necessary motion without being attended with friction. Overstrain produces enlargement of these sacks, and is the immediate cause of thoroughpins and wind galls. Upon the inside, and exactly on the curve of the joint, one of these bags is located, and its distension causes bog-spavin; between the enlargement of the joint and the skin a vein is pressed upon this sack, and when inflammation ensues the circulation is retarded, the vein becomes distended from the bog to the adjacent valve below, and blood spavin is the result.

In a large majority of cases where blood spavin is believed to be present, there exists only bog spavin; the two are so readily confounded that oftentimes only a practiced veterinarian is capable of determining. In some instances where lameness has been caused by

bog-spavin, blood spavin has followed, and the horse has recovered from his lameness, as the one sometimes counteracts the effects of the other. In other cases, where the lameness occasionally returns, the bog, and not the blood spavin, produces the defect of carriage.

As these defects all arise from like causes, similar treatment is required. Whenever inflammation is present cooling purgatives and alteratives should be given in connection with softening and cooling outward applications. It has been said that frequent bathing with sour buttermilk will soften bone spavin and cause it to be absorbed. This should be the design in all remedies used in preference to the old system of cutting, burning, and blistering. In cases of bog and blood spavin, compressing, with cooling diet and medicine, will usually effect a cure in connection with rest and absence from all exciting causes; and, in order to have the cure permanent, the horse must for a long time be used with great caution, avoiding violent exercise, high speed, heavy draft, hard pavements, plank roads, and long standing on hard floors.—*E. P. Vail, in Rural American.*

### Qualities of Cattle.

Ayrshires for cheese, Devons for butter, and Alderneys for cream. These, on the best native stock will improve. The improved Shorthorns combine these qualities to a large extent, and are besides, superior for beef. When we say the Alderneys for cream, we mean the richest cream, not the most, as less milk is given by them than by the Devons, and less butter made from a cow. For the farmer who has but few cows, the improved Shorthorns are the best, as they combine more or less the good qualities. Excellent for milk, they are still more so for beef.—*Colman's Rural World.*

### Power of a Horse's Scent.

There is one perception that a horse possesses to which but little attention has been paid, and that is the power of scent. With some horses it is acute, as with the dog; and for the benefit of those that have to drive at nights, such as physicians and others, this knowledge is invaluable. I never knew it to fail, and I have ridden hundreds of miles on dark nights; and in consideration of this power of scent, this is my simple advice: never check your horse at nights, but give him a free head, and you may rest assured that he will never get off the road, and will carry you expeditiously and safe. In regard to the power of scent in a horse, I once knew one of a pair that was stolen, and recovered mainly by the track being made out by its mate, and that after he had been absent six or eight hours.

### Gold Varnish.

Tumeric, one drachm; gamboge, one drachm; oil of turpentine, two pints; shellac, five ounces; dragon's blood, seven drachms; thin mastic varnish, eight ounces. Digest, with occasional agitation, for fourteen days, in a warm place; then set aside to fine, and pour off to clear.—*Ex.*

### To Keep Rats from Grain Stacks.

An exchange says a few garlicks among the sheaves when stacking grain, will prevent rats troubling it.

## Horticultural.

### HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

THE season has not been so favorable for vegetables as for small fruits. The latter had the benefit of the spring rains, and what growing weather we were favored with, and consequently received such an impetus as enabled them to pass through the summer drouth with less injury than the vegetables sustained, many varieties of which were planted so late, owing to the wet spring that they hardly got started before the ground became too dry for them. Yet, with these drawbacks, the gardener who has tilled his land well, does not lack a fair supply of vegetables.

**Cabbage.**—We have tried quite a number of varieties of early cabbage this year, and find none superior to Early York for very early, and Jersey Wakefield to follow a few days later. Quite a large portion of our cabbage was destroyed by the small white maggot which eats up the roots. We commenced cutting about the middle of July.

**Beets.**—We also tried quite a number of varieties of early beets, and found nothing earlier than the Basane, or better than the Early Blood Turnip. We pulled our first about the first of July.

**String Beans.**—For the very earliest there is nothing ahead of the Valentine, but a week or two later the Butter bean will do to use, when that supersedes all others. It is rich, tender, and remains a long time in use. The pod is very thick and yellow from the start.

**Cucumbers.**—Varieties of cucumbers have multiplied rapidly of late years; but if there are any earlier and superior to the Early White Spined, we have failed to discover them.

**Tomatoes.**—We started in the same hotbed, Early York, Early Smooth Red, and Tilden. They blossomed in the above order, the first taking the lead by several days. But we picked the Early Smooth Red just as soon, and consider it rather fairer and more productive. The Tilden was a few days behind the Early Smooth Red, is a little larger, rougher, and fully as productive. The blossom leaves quite a large scar, which is rather an objection. Owing to drouth or some other cause, tomatoes ripen slowly, and the price continues high. \$4.00 per bushel is now paid, nearly three weeks after commencing to pick them. We tried several packages of seeds, of different varieties sent us from the Patent Office, and think that if we receive any more, we shall throw them to the poultry as they are unreliable.

**Potatoes.**—We think the Early Goodrich a decided acquisition. Of all the varieties we have tried, it was the first to cook dry and mealy.

#### FRUITS.

The raspberry crop was a fair one this year, and in good demand. The Doolittle is growing in favor, but the Miami, also a black-cap, is decidedly ahead of it—fewer thorns, as hardy, productive, larger, and finer flavored. It ripens about two weeks later, affording a desired succession. The Franconia and Hudson River long red varieties, sustained their high reputation.

The Philadelphia is undoubtedly the most productive of red sorts, but in quality is inferior.

**Blackberries.**—The Lawton is hardly as productive as last year, but is bearing a fair crop. Kittatinny and Wilson have done well where tried.

There are no peaches in this vicinity, a fair crop of pears and plums, and a light crop of apples.

### TABLE DESIGNS AND DECORATIONS.

EXTRACT FROM LECTURES DELIVERED TO THE LADIES AT THE TRACY FEMALE INSTITUTE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM WEBSTER.

As our last lecture related mainly to Parlor Ornaments, I intend in this to vary the subject somewhat by giving you an example in the way of Dinner Table Decorations. The expedients resorted to for producing a fine effect at dinner parties with fruit and flowers are manifold and various. I can call to mind a circumstance which occurred some years ago in Toronto, where a sumptuous dinner was to be given to some of the notables of Canada, and from whence the host dispatched his gardener to Philadelphia to select and purchase the finest and most rare plants he could find to decorate the dinner table. Among these were some superb specimens of orange trees laden with fruit. These being in tubs were placed on the floor, and the tables so arranged about the stems as to make it appear as though the trees grew through the table; for it sometimes happens on an occasion like this that a table has to be constructed for the particular purpose. I do not mention this as a style that can be generally adopted, for it is entirely too expensive, and although it is much in vogue in France and other parts of the continent of Europe. It is hardly worth our imitation (except on some extraordinary occasion,) when we have so many less expensive ways to display our taste which are far more easier to obtain, and produce equally as good effect. My attention has been very forcibly directed to this subject through an article which appeared in *The Gardener's Monthly* some five or six years since, and which I have lately read, where it is stated that prizes were offered at a recent London horticultural exhibition for the best table designs formed of fruits and flowers, and that it was gratifying to observe that great interest was manifested in this department. Ladies of the nobility entered the arena as competitors, and the subject was considered worthy of the efforts of the most refined minds in England. The first prize was awarded to a lady, but I cannot now recall her name.

The stands to receive the fruit and flowers for this purpose, may be made of almost any light material in which strength is combined. On this occasion they were formed of glass, the base of which was large enough to receive several bunches of grapes placed on a layer of beautiful fern leaves interspersed with vine leaves and trailing plants. From the centre a slender stem rises and supports a dish on the top, which is filled in like manner to the lower one, the trailing plants being wound around the stem. Some of the

glass stands made for this purpose are very elaborate, and reflect like a mirror, which produces a fine effect. This one which we are now about to fill, is about as simple an affair as we could get for the purpose—and yet I have no doubt that you will be highly gratified with the result. Being made of wire, it is very light and strong, and can be handled without any fear of breaking. We will commence by putting in a layer of this beautiful green moss; next we place around a layer of these delicate fern leaves, which you must handle very carefully, this being so early in the season. They are naturally very tender, and though but just brought in from the woods, they have not obtained sufficient age to bear anything but the most delicate handling. However, as the season advances, the fronds will become firmer, and then they may be handled with impunity.

Although we are but just entering the portals of summer, these grapes will recall to your mind the luscious fruits of October. They are certainly very fine, and cannot weigh much less than two pounds each bunch, these were grown and ripened in the forcing vinery of the Hon. William G. Fargo, at Buffalo, by his gardener, Mr. Brown, whose skill in this department needs no greater commendation than this, and who has kindly presented them to me for the purpose of illustrating this lecture. This large black bunch is the Black Hamburg, and this rose-colored one, the Rose Chasselas, and this superb golden bunch with the oblong or pear-shaped berries, the Bowood Muscat: this latter is without doubt the largest and finest of all the Muscats. You will no doubt be surprised when I tell you that these were grown in pots and boxes about fifteen inches square, each vine producing and ripening about half a dozen bunches. Here is an instance in which I would have no hesitation in decorating a dinner table with fruit in pots, because the vines on which these grew were so very compact, the bunches so large, and the berries so fine, that they could not but elicit admiration; but in doing this I would arrange around the pot a number of fern and vine leaves, and fruits of different kinds, so as to completely conceal the pot and make it appear as though the vine itself sprung from the centre of a vase. With this slight digression, I now return to our subject of decorating the stand.

As apples, pears, and strawberries are the only domestic fruits which we have now at our command for this purpose, we will place on the ferns a few of these vine leaves so as to cover a portion of the base, and on these we will place the grapes interspersed with the other fruits, vine leaves, and some of this Lycopodium, and use these tropical fruits also, with the finest of these pine apples on the apex. Here we have a mingling of colors, which are very grateful to the eye, the dark green of the vine leaves and the light glaucous tint of the crown of the pine with the fine scarlet of the strawberries, mingling with the bright yellow of the oranges, and deeper purple of the grapes—is a blending of colors that is always pleasing in table decorations. It is not merely the quantity or quality of the fruit or flowers which produces the finest effects,

but a tasteful and judicious arrangement of them. Vine leaves and the fronds of ferns are the most appropriate and useful leaves for table decorations, or in fact to show off to the best advantage almost any kind of fruit. The Parisian fruiterers understand this, for the markets of Paris are well supplied with them during the season, the fern leaves being often brought from long distances for this very purpose, where they are eagerly bought by the dealers in fruit. With this limited but choice supply of fruits, you see we have been enabled to produce an ornament which I have but little doubt will be highly appreciated by you all, and the only further advice I have to offer is that we now adjourn, and that Miss Tracy order its removal to the dinner table at once, where at the proper time it will be seen whether I have judged correctly or not.

### ADORNMENTS OF THE HOMESTEAD.

P. BARRY, of this city, one of the most intelligent horticulturists in the country, gives the following advice on this subject:

"The first thing I should press on the farmers in the way of improvement, would be what we might call roadside improvement. Keep the cattle off the highways, keep the weeds cut close, and lines of shade-trees on each side—this, with neat fences, will be an evidence of civilization to begin with. Then I would enjoin the removal from the roadsides, near the dwelling, of all dilapidated and broken implements, which are so apt, somehow or other, to accumulate.

"The barn and other out-buildings are very frequently located more on the principle of convenience than good taste, but we must take these things as they are, and improve them with paint or wash of some sort, and a good thick belt of rapid-growing trees around them, both for shelter and shade, and to partly conceal their unsightly appearance.

"Then, as for the door-yard, I would dig up, root out all the old neglected plum, peach, cherry and quince trees, that seem to have sprung up by chance in the fence corners. All this class of trees, that we might call the finer fruits, not usually grown in orchards, I would form into a nice fruit garden of half an acre to two acres, as might be necessary. There I would have a complete collection of pears, cherries, apricots, plums, quinces, all the small fruits systematically planted and carefully cultivated. This garden might be made one of the most interesting portions of the premises, to say nothing of the abundant supply of fine fruit and vegetables it would yield. Here the family could acquire taste for gardening, as well as learn to practice it.

"Then the ground about the house I would convert into a smooth lawn, which must be kept cut close all summer. This lawn must be suitably embellished with deciduous and evergreen trees, flowering shrubs, roses, &c. This is the way I preach to the farmers when I visit them, but only once in a great while with any effect. It is a shame for our well-to-do farmers that they are so behind in this matter. It makes farm life so dull and dreary a pursuit, that I am not surprised +



see all the brighter boys run away from it, and our rural population, growing less and less every year. Then think how much these improvements would add to the market value of the farms. A nice house, some good fences, an orchard, increase the value of a farm from twenty to twenty-five dollars per acre, other things being equal, but carry out such suggestions as I have made, and what do you suppose it would add to the value of farms? Almost double it! This argument has some weight; it touches the pocket, but the moral effect of such improvements would be absolutely incalculable."

### HORTICULTURAL.

DURING a recent visit to the nursery of John Charlton, of this city, we noticed some very nice and choice evergreens—among them the new heath-leaved Arbor Vitæ, *Thuja Ericoides*. This is a beautiful, small, compact evergreen, and a decided acquisition for places of limited extent. *Thujaopsis Borealis*, a few specimens of which were looking remarkably thrifty. This has the habit of the Siberian Arbor Vitæ, with a beautiful glaucous or silvery green foliage—it retains its color unimpaired through our most severe winters. *Thuja Globosa*, a very compact, round-headed evergreen, suitable for small places, similar to Parson's Dwarf American, with which it is usually classed. *Thuja Pumila*, is a very fine symmetrical and compact evergreen suited to any place. Lawson's Cypress, (*Cupressus Lawsoniana*.) This elegant and beautiful cypress we regard as one of the greatest acquisitions of late introduction to our list of evergreens. There were many other things worthy of notice, which we have not the space now to devote to the purpose, and will only casually mention one, namely, the Diana Hamburg grape vine, of which he had a goodly number, which were looking remarkably fine, and showing unmistakably their foreign connection. If this proves to be what the raiser claims for it, then indeed it must be a great acquisition to our list of hardy grapes. Never having tasted the fruit or observed it in its fruiting season, we are unable to form an opinion, but as we are promised both by the raiser this fall, we reserve our judgment till then.

We always take pleasure in recording the spirit and enterprise exhibited in the agricultural press of the country, and the latest case that has come under our observation we find in *The California Farmer* of July 11, in which appears an illustration of a beautiful group of "California Dairy Stock," which said engraving originally appeared in *THE GENESEE FARMER*, of 1855, as a group of improved shorthorns of that day, and is now palmed off at this late date as a "fair representation" of the "splendid stock that now grace the dairy farms of California." Alas, we have heretofore been somewhat sceptical of spiritualism, but when we behold the sign manual of our late friend the engraver, who died four years ago, on the first page of *The California Farmer* manipulating the "splendid dairy stock" of that State, in A. D. 1867, our eyeballs glared with astonishment, and our knees trembled, as we viewed Miller's artistic efforts from the spirit world. But the vision and the interpretation thereof is made plain, as we open the files of *THE GENESEE FARMER* 1855, and behold the original!

### NEW STRAWBERRIES.

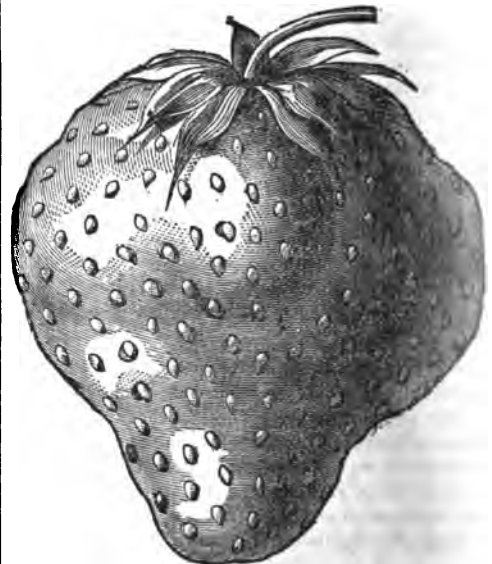
On this and following page, we give several well executed engravings of the latest improved varieties of strawberries, which with those in our last number comprise the most desirable of the old and new plants.

*Neanor*.—This seedling originated on the grounds of Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, of this city, and is pronounced by them to be a decided acquisition. We had an opportunity of seeing and tasting it this spring on their grounds, and were favorably impressed with it. Planted with other varieties in a two-acre field, it was easily distinguished at any distance for its vigor and large size of the plant. It is said to stand the winter well. Fruit, bright scarlet, about the same size as Wilson's Albany, but not so acid.

*Napoleon III.*—This is a foreign variety introduced by Messrs. E. J. Evans & Co., York, Pa., and has been tested in several localities, giving good promise. Fruit large, irregular, flattened, varying from oval to corcomb shape; color, rosy red; flesh of delicate, snowy whiteness, and of high flavor; plants vigorous. Comes in later than the Wilson, but continues longer in bearing. Said to be a great acquisition.

*Dr. Nicaise*.—Also of foreign origin, and imported by Messrs. Frost & Co., of this city. Berries very large, plants hardy so far as tested, rapid grower, and very productive. Color bright red, flesh white, and of fine quality.

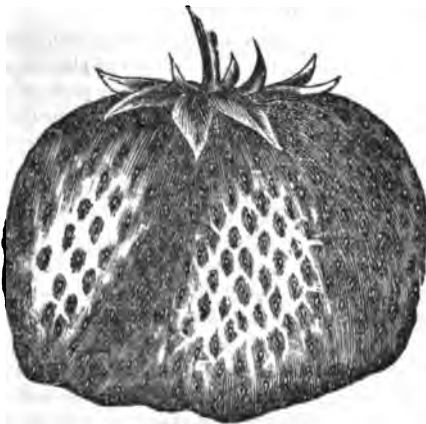
*Jucunda, or Knox's 700*.—The Jucunda, though better known than the preceding, is yet new to many, but



rising rapidly into favor with the majority of those who have given it a trial. It bids fair to become one of our most popular varieties. The Jucunda is of foreign origin, and was introduced by J. Knox, Pittsburg, Pa. It has been fully tested on his grounds, proving very prolific and hardy. Berries very large, conical shape; color, deep scarlet, and of superior flavor.



"N I C A N O R."



DR. NICAISE.



## Ladies' Department.

### DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

**BLACKBERRY WINE.**—To one gallon of berries allow two quarts of water. Let them stand till the next day, then strain through a coarse sieve or colander; afterwards strain through a flannel bag. To every gallon of the juice stir well in two lbs. of good brown sugar. Fill a barrel, proportionate in size, to the quantity, reserving a few quarts, which may be added occasionally as fermentation diminishes the mixture in the barrel. When fermentation ceases, head up tight and keep a year, when it will be ready to use; but the longer it is kept the better. Avoid using spices of any kind. When preferred, a small quantity may be seasoned in this way at any time.

**BLACKBERRY CORDIAL—A SYRUP—EXCELLENT FOR SUMMER COMPLAINTS.**—To every two quarts of juice obtained from ripe fresh berries, allow two lbs. of good sugar, one-half ounce of stick cinnamon and whole cloves, and one quarter of an ounce of allspice unground. Boil thoroughly, and when nearly cold add one pint of the best brandy. Dose: For adults—one to two tablespoonsful; for children, one to two teaspoonsful, according to age. The bottle should be well corked and labelled.

**BLACK CURRANT WINE—AS GOOD AS PORT.**—Bruise the currants thoroughly, and let them stand till the next day, when they should be well pressed, and to every quart of juice obtained add two quarts of water or even more—then to every gallon add three pounds of good brown sugar; put into a vessel, and proceed as for blackberry wine. If short of currants, the pulp after pressing may be well stirred in the water to be added and again pressed.

**BLACK CURRANT JAM.**—Pick on a dry warm day; cut off the stems and blows from each berry with a pair of scissors; measure the fruit into a brass or porcelain kettle, and allow one half pound of sugar—*brown will do*—to each quart; boil gently for at least an hour, stirring to prevent burning. When cooked sufficiently pour into small jars or large teacups. When cold, place immediately over the jam nice white paper the proper size and shape, and dipped in brandy if convenient, being careful not to disturb the jellied surface of the preserve, as much depends upon this. Then cover each jar with paper cemented to the sides with white of egg, label and set away in a dark dry and cool cupboard. Excellent for colds and sore throats, and when mixed with water makes a cooling drink for a fever patient.

**TO PRESERVE PLUMS WHOLE.**—After picking over to remove stems and bad ones, put into a crock (small enough to go into your oven) a layer of plums and a layer of sugar till full, then cover with a brown paper and tie down tight. Place in a moderate oven, and allow them to remain for some hours; leave the door open if there is much fire in the stove; examine, and when the plums are well covered with juice you may

strain through a colander. Boil all up together and bottle, with the addition of more sugar, if not sweet enough. This receipt is applicable to the blue plum and green gage, and of course when this method is adopted it will be necessary to bottle the fruit while boiling, sealing immediately.

**DAMSONS.**—The juice should be extracted as above. The plums thus drained, and the juice measured, and one lb. of sugar added to each lb. of juice. When well boiled and skimmed thoroughly, the plums may be added and brought to a boil, poured into a crock and well covered, will keep during the winter.

**TO REMOVE THE SKIN FROM PEACHES—AN EXCELLENT AND EXPEDITIOUS METHOD.**—Make a lye as strong as possible of woodashes and soft water. Fill a kettle with the lye, and, when boiling rapidly, drop in twelve or eighteen peaches, and take out again almost immediately, and immerse them in a pail of cold water. Take one in your hand and you will perceive that the rind will slip off entirely, leaving a round, beautiful yellow ball; throw it immediately into another pail of pure water, and so proceed till all are done. This process will not injure the flavor of the finest peach, and once tried, the old fashioned method of peeling with a knife will not be again adopted. If the lye is not strong enough, put into the kettle two dippersful of clean wood ashes. This is an excellent way to rid small onions of their jackets preparatory to pickling them. Try it.

**PEACHES TO BOTTLE.**—After seeing that your bottles or cans, with their proper lids, are ready, season your bottles by pouring into each one a pint of water, in which you can bear to hold your hand any length of time, but which should be quite warm. Place upon the fire a nice clean porcelain or brass kettle, in which is about a pint of water; sweeten it and place in the peaches, which are prepared. We always halve ours. As soon as boiling, empty a bottle of the warm water and fill with peaches, pushing the topmost well under the juice, and put on the lid immediately; put more peaches into the kettle, and more sugar and water as required. We always keep a kettle of boiling water ready at the back of the fire.

**TO PICKLE PEACHES.**—Wipe them well, and stick into each one three or four cloves, and place in a crock; prepare a pickle as follows: To one peck of peaches allow three lbs. of sugar and nearly one quart of vinegar. Scald and pour over three successive mornings.

**PLUMS TO PICKLE.**—After weighing, place the plums in a jar or crock, a layer at a time; between each layer scattering a few cloves, stick cinnamon, and allspice. Then to three lbs. of fruit allow one lb. of sugar and vinegar enough to moisten nicely; boil and pour over; set the jar in a kettle of warm water, and let the water boil till the plums are soft, or drain them and pour over again till the juice will cover the plums.

**PICKLES FOR WINTER.**—Each day gather the cucumbers that are ready. Put a layer on the bottom of a strong barrel, then a layer of salt, sprinkling over this a little pounded alum. After the season is passed, lay over them a clean cloth and two sticks crossways, and

a stone to keep them under the brine. Will keep any length of time.

**CUCUMBER PICKLE.**—Take three or four hundred small cucumbers, and pour over them strong brine, and let them remain two or three days. Drain, and pour over them spiced boiling vinegar, spice with mustard seed, allspice and mace. Never put cloves, as they will discolor them.

### HOUSEHOLD CARES—No. 8.

THE day before yesterday Tom. brought into the house his little Bolton Gray, the only surviving chicken from two dozen eggs, for which he had paid three dollars some three months since. He had found this one in the swill barrel, and it seemed inevitable that she would go the way of all the rest—for a colder, stiffer, and more dripping wet specimen of chickenhood I never before saw.

"She's done for," said Tom.

"Is she quite dead?" I said.

"Not quite; she gasps a little, but she will die."

I took Boltie in my hand. She is worth saving I thought, as I remembered the laying propensities of the breed, and against all hope of accomplishing any favorable result, I went to work.

I ran for an old piece of flannel kept for emergencies, the wash dish, and some warm suds from the wash tub, in which I immersed my patient all but her head, having before this, however, held her by the legs, head downwards, to allow the water to escape from her lungs through the beak. Considerable water was seen to flow with very visible relief to the chicken.

The warm suds seemed to strengthen her very much, and after holding her therein for some time and occasionally taking her out, rolling her over and over a little, and renewing the warm suds, she opened her eyes—a good sign, I thought. Finally, I wrapped her in the warm flannel, leaving her head out, and put her upon the warm hearth.

Tom. suggested the oven.

"Now, Tom.," I said, "when will you get over that idea of yours, of putting chickens into the oven. You remember the five newly fledged ducklings which you officiously took from their mother and suffocated in a partially covered basket in the back oven! Oh, Tom!"

"Well, well, my dear, let by-gones be by-gones; that was only a mishap, and one case in a thousand."

In an hour's time, Boltie eat a little of the children's milk and bread, and some corn meal from my hands—then down she came from her warm bed, walked out of doors, and to-day is as lively as the rest of the barn yard domestics.

I have been considerably amused at reading an editorial item—an answer to an inquiry, it seems, in an agricultural monthly published in New York City. The article is as follows:\*

\*The above paper referred to by our fair correspondent, is issued by a certain editor who styles himself the only person "specially educated" to teach farmers and their wives on rural affairs! The above is one of many instances of his special capacity!—*Eds.*

"*W. Williams.*—Exposure to the air was undoubtedly the cause of the spoiling of the meat in removal. We would not have pork five minutes out of the brine, if we could help it, before it is cooked. In changing from one vessel to another there is a good deal of exposure. The only safety for pork is in packing it in good, clean barrels, with plenty of salt, as close as possible, and in keeping it covered with brine till used. Pork is often spoiled through the carelessness of servants. Keep a board and weight upon it constantly, and do not fail to look at the barrel every time you visit the cellar, if you want sweet pork. If the brine is not strong enough add more salt on top. We always keep two or three inches of coarse salt on top. The bottom will always take care of itself."

What a string of absurdities! What kind of pork is it that five minutes light of day would make unfit for cooking? On Monday I brought up from the cellar a piece of pork too large for what I wanted, so I left it on a clean plate on a shelf in the wood shed, and this morning, Wednesday, we had some for breakfast and from the relish with which it was eaten I should say it was perfectly sweet. Then he says—for I am sure that it was a man who wrote,—Keep the pork under the brine—of course, liquid brine. Then he always keeps two or three inches of salt on top. Surely, he is greater than Elisha, who made iron swim. Try it any of you, and see if you can make two or three inches of salt keep on the top of the brine in your pork barrel. But the crowning folly, and the one that aroused me to criticism, was the idea that farmers' wives and daughters, or any other women, have time to visit the pork barrel every time they go into the cellar! How many times does a housekeeper go into her cellar during one day? Not less than a dozen, I am sure. And what good would looking at the barrel do? About as much as Bridget looking at the oven. You remember the story—Bridget was in the kitchen attending to the vegetables for dinner; the lady of the house had some pies in the oven, and occasionally she would call to Biddy to look at the oven. "Yes, ma'm" said she, everytime turning and looking at the oven door, till finally when her mistress thought the pies must surely be done—found them burned about to a crisp.

"Why, Bridget, I thought I told you to look at the oven!"

"Sure, and I did, ma'm."

"Well, why did you let the pies burn? Why did you not tell me?"

"And was it the pies ye was after man'ing? Sure, an' I thought it was the oven door, and I looked at it every minute, entirely."

AUNT ROSA.

**COOKING THE CAULIFLOWER.**—Put a good sized cauliflower in just enough boiling water to cover it, with a large teaspoonful of coarse salt, and a piece of carbonate of soda the size of a moderate green pea, and boil for twenty-five minutes, then dish and drain out all the water and put two ounces of butter on the top of the cauliflower, and cover close.—*Country Gentlemen*.

**TO PICKLE CAULIFLOWER.**—Choose those very tender; break in pieces the size desired, (not cut,) sprinkle with salt on an earthen dish, and in four hours remove jars of strong, cold, spiced vinegar previously prepared. The only trouble we have with this pickle is, that everybody likes it so much that we cannot make enough.—*Country Gentleman*.

## Editor's Table.

### TO OUR READERS AND PATRONS.

THE time for the fall campaign has now arrived. We desire to call the attention of our readers and patrons to the importance of forming clubs early for 1868, and solicit a continuance of their efforts to increase our already large list of subscribers.

We feel deeply grateful to our agents everywhere for the liberal way in which they have shown their appreciation of our efforts to publish an interesting and practical farmer's paper, and they will be pleased to learn that the prospects for an unprecedented large circulation were never so bright as at this time. Up to this date, August 20, our receipts for subscription for this month alone have increased

#### Two Hundred per Cent. over Last Year.

This is gratifying to us, and shows that THE AMERICAN FARMER is appreciated by the farmers of our country; and from the large number of letters we are receiving, and the kind tone of them, we feel confident that they will continue to increase at a still larger per centage than during the past month. All that is necessary to obtain a large club is to commence early, show a copy to your neighbors and friends, take down their names, and compete for some of our premiums.

In our next we shall offer an unusually liberal list of prizes, and all names received this month will count in taking any of our premiums.

Remember that in commencing now for 1868 all new subscribers will

#### Get the Remainder of this Year

from the time their names are received.

### THE WEATHER, CROPS, &c.

#### Notes on the Weather from July 15, to Aug. 16, 1867.

THIS half month of July has been pleasant and favorable. The heat has been less than common, but vegetation has advanced well. The rain exceeded an inch in the last half, and was 3.54 inches for the whole month, and a fine lunar rainbow on the evening of the 19th, from half after nine to ten, as a shower passed over us westwards. On the 21st, from 7 1-2 to 9 P.M., a thunder shower gave us more lightning and its attendants, than in the whole past season. The harvest of wheat was nearly closed at the end of the month, and was great and fine, uninjured by rust or blast, or mildew or rain. The mean heat of this half was 70.5°, a little below the general average, 71.0°; and the mean of the month, 69.3°, the general average being 71.7°. The noon of 23d was 84°; of 24th, was 89°; of 27th, was 86°, and of 28th was 88°. The heat of 23d was 75° for all day; of 24th, was 79.3°; of 27th, was 77.3°; of 28th, was 80.3°. The coldest morning was 59° on the 17th.

To the end of July this year, the water fallen is 21.8

inches, which exceeds the average for the seven months by 3.19 inches. At New York the rain has been greatly in excess, and the same is true of the coast southwards to Virginia.

AUGUST has given us two weeks of warmer weather. The weather of this half is 71.4°, and the general average, 70.0°. The hottest noon was 86°, and hottest day was 76.8°, the 9th; and the coldest day 65.3°, the 3d; and its morning was 64°. Only one-tenth inch of rain fell on the first three days, and not enough since to be measured. In July, first part of 1866, there fell only 02 inches, and in October none in the first half, and in first half of July, 1865, only 0.27. As the rain has been so little, the dust has been abundant, and the weather has seemed much warmer than the thermometer showed it to be, for it has exceeded the average by only 1.4°. There has been much cloudless weather, still the season is pretty healthy.

#### New Hampshire.

The prospect for great crops was never better than at the present time, (July.) All kinds of grain will be better than for a number of years, especially winter grain. Corn is looking finely. Potatoes look very promising; the tops are stout and spreading, a very sure sign of large potatoes. A much larger breadth of land was sown and planted this season than last, and the weather has been favorable thus far, nothing having suffered from rain, or from excessive heat. The hay crop will exceed that of last year by one-third, and of better quality. There will be but few apples as compared with last year, but enough for home consumption. This is the odd year for Baldwins, in which they do not produce so abundantly as in even years. Much more attention is given to the raising of Baldwins than any other kind, on account of their value as a market apple. Last year, with an abundant crop, the Baldwin sold to dealers in Boston for from \$5 to \$7 per barrel for No. 1, exclusive of freight. No. 2, half price. An orchard of one hundred trees, thrifty and sound, twelve years old, will produce five hundred barrels of apples, three hundred of which will be No. 1, and two hundred No. 2, for which, at last year's prices the owner will receive \$2,000. What will pay better? But the trees must be kept in a healthy condition by plowing and manuring, pruning in the right season, and in a judicious manner, keeping off insects and bark ice by washing with soap suds or weak lye, keeping the borer out by watching and planting tomatoes around every tree, keeping cattle away from the orchard by a good fence, picking up all the wormy apples as fast as they fall, keeping the ground clean and neat. Does any one say they require a good deal of work and care? Do not all our cultivated lands require work and care—corn, wheat, potatoes, oxen, cows, horses, hogs, &c.? They do here, in order to get remunerative returns. But when farmers learn to cultivate less land, plow deeper, manure more liberally they will get surer and quicker returns with less labor.—*L., Brentwood, N. H.*

A large amount of matter is unavoidably crowded out, and will appear in our next number.

## FAIRS FOR 1867.

## State.

American Institute.	New York	Sept. 12, Oct. 26
American Pomological Soc'y.	St. Louis	Sept. 11-14
California.	Sacramento	Sept. 9-14
Canada.	Kingston	Sept. 22-27
Illinois.	Quincy	Sept. 23-30
Indiana.	Terra Haute.	St. 30-Oct. 5
Iowa.	Clinton	Sept. 24-27
Iowa Central.	Des Moines	Sept. 15, 27
Kansas.	Lawrence	Sept. 24
Kentucky.	Louisville	Sept. 17-20
Louisiana.	Baton Rouge	Nov. 5, 9
Maryland.	Baltimore	Oct. 22-31
Massachusetts.		
Minnesota.	Rochester	Oct. 1-4
Missouri.	St. Louis	Oct. 7-13
Michigan.	Detroit	Sept. 10-18
New England Fair.	Providence	Sept. 3
New Jersey.	Newark	Sept.
New Hampshire.	Nashua	Sept. 10-12
New York.	Buffalo	Oct. 1-4
Ohio.	Dayton	Sept. 23-26
Oregon.		
Pennsylvania.	Norristown	
St. Louis Association.	St. Louis	Oct. 7, 13
Tennessee.	Clarksville	Oct. 15-19
Wisconsin.	Madison	Sept. 23-27
Wisconsin Ag. and Mech.	Milwaukee	Sept. 10, 18
Vermont.	Brattleboro.	Sept. 10-18

County.  
NEW YORK.

Albany.	Albany	Sept. 16-19
Cattaraugus.	Little Valley	Sept. 11-18
Cayuga.	Auburn	Sept. 17-19
Chemango.	Norwich	Sept. 24-26
Duchess.	Washington Hollow	Sept. 17-20
Monroe.	Rochester	Sept. 25-28
Onondaga.	Rome	Sept. 24-27
Ontario.	Canandaigua	Sept. 23, 24
Orange Horse Show.	Coates	Sept. 10, 12
Otsego.	Cooperstown	Oct. 1, 3
Putnam.	Carmel	Sept. 18-27
Queens.	Mineola	Sept. 25-27
Susquehanna Valley.	Unadilla	Sept. 25-27
St. Lawrence.	Canton	Sept. 24-26
Ulster.	Kingston	Sept. 22-26
Suffolk.	Elverthead	
Washington.		Sept. 10-13

## ILLINOIS.

Boone.	Belvidere	
Bureau.	Princeton	Sept. 17-19
Champaign.	Urbana	Oct. 1-4
De Kalb.	De Kalb	Sept. 25-28
Franklin.	Benton	Oct. 9-13
Fulton.	Canton	Oct. 8-11
Greene.	Carrollton	Oct. 15-18
Grundy.	Morris	Oct. 8-11
Henderson.	Briggsville	Oct. 9-11
Jo. Daviess.	Galena	Sept. 24-27
Lake.		Sept. 24-26
LaSalle.	Ottawa	Oct. 8-11
Macoupin.	Carlinville	Oct. 15-18
McLean.	Bloomington	Sept. 8-6
Madison.	Edwardsville	Sept. 8
Marshall.	Henry	Sept. 10-18
Meer.	Millersburg	Sept. 24-26
Montgomery.	Hillsboro.	Oct. 1-4
Pike.	Pittsfield	Sept. 24-27
Rock Island.	Rock Island	Sept. 2, 6
Schuyler.	Rushville	Sept. 23, 26
Stark.	Toulon	Sept. 24, 26
Tazewell.	Tremont	Sept. 25-27
Union.	Jonesboro	Sept. 18-20
Whiteside.	Sterling	Sept. 18, 12

## MISSOURI.

Andrew.	Savannah	
Boone.	Columbus	Sept. 30-Oct
Jefferson.	De Soto	Sept. 25-27
Lewis.	Canton	Oct. 18-17
Linn.	Hannibal	Sept. 25-29
Monroe.	Paris	Sept. 9, 10
Pike.	Ashley	Sept. 17, 20
Randolph.		Sept. 24

## MAINE.

Franklin.	Farmington	Oct. 1, 3
York.	Saco and Biddeford	Oct. 3-10

## INDIANA.

Marion.	Bridgeport	Sept. 25-27
Morgan.	Martinville	Sept. 3-7
Posey.	New Harmony	Sept. 10-18
Spencer.	Rockport	Oct. 2-5

## IOWA.

Benton.	Vinton	Sept. 23-26
Bremer.	Waverly	Oct.
Cedar.	Tipton	Sept. 17-19
Cedar Valley.	Cedar Falls	Oct. 15-17
Chickasaw.	New Hampton	Sept. 25-26
Clayton.	Farmersburg	Oct. 1-3
Crawford.	Dennison	Sept. 26-28
Des Moines.	Burlington	Sept. 25-27
Hardin.	Eldora	Sept. 25-26
Jasper.	Newton	Oct. 9-11
Jefferson.	Fairfield	Oct. 9-11
Jones.	Anamosa	Sept. 25-27
Kossuth.	Algona	Sept. 25
Louisa.	Wapello	Sept. 17-20
Linn.	Marion	Sept. 17-20
Madison.	Winterset	Oct. 18, 19
Mahaska.	Oskaloosa	Sept. 11-13
Poweshick.	Brooklyn	Sept. 26-28
Scott.	Davenport	Sept. 9
Union.	Afton	Oct. 11-12
Union.	Wheatland (Clinton Co.)	Sept. 24, 27
Van Buren.	Keosauqua	Sept. 26, 27

## MASSACHUSETTS.

Essex.	Haverhill	Sept. 24, 25
Middlesex.	Concord	Oct. 3, 4
Middlesex North.	Lowell	Sept. 26, 27
Middlesex South.	Frammingham	Sept. 17, 18
Worcester.	Worcester	Sept. 19, 20
Worcester West.	Barre	Sept. 26, 27
Worcester North.	Fitchburg	Sept. 24, 25
Worcester South.	Sturbridge	Oct. 3
Worcester Southeast.	Milford	Sept. 24, 25
Hampshire.	Northampton	Oct. 3, 4
Hampshire.	Amherst	Sept. 24, 25
Highland.	Middlefield	Sept. 12, 13
Hampden.	Springfield	Oct. 1, 3
Hampden East.	Palmer	Oct. 8, 9
Franklin.	Greenfield	Sept. 26, 27
Berkshire.	Pittsfield	Oct. 1-3
Housatonic.	Great Barrington	Sept. 25, 26
Housac Valley.	North Adams	Sept. 17, 18
Norfolk.	Dedham	Sept. 19, 20
Bristol.	Taunton	Oct. 1, 3
Bristol Center.	Myrick's	Sept. 13, 20
Plymouth.	Bridgewater	Sept. 26, 27
Barnstable.	Barnstable	Oct. 8, 9
Nantucket.	Nantucket	Sept. 25, 26
Martha's Vineyard.	West Tisbury	Oct. 15, 16

## OHIO.

Ashtabula.	Jefferson	Oct. 9-11
Athens.	Athens	Oct. 3, 4
Belmont.	St. Clairville	Sept. 25-27
Champaign.	Urbana	Oct. 1-4
Clarke.	Springfield	Sept. 10-13
Clermont.	Boston	Sept. 17-20
Clinton.	Wilmingon	Sept. 18-20
Cuyahoga.	Newburg	Oct. 8-11
Defiance.	Defiance	Oct. 15, 17
Erie.	Sandusky	Oct. 1-4
Franklin.	Columbus	Sept. 10-13
Fulton.	Ottokee	Sept. 25-27
Geauga.	Burton	Sept. 18-20
Geauga (Free).	Claridon	Sept. 25-26
Green.	Xenia	Sept. 4-6
Guernsey.	Cambridge	Oct. 1, 2
Hamilton.	Carthage	Sept. 8-6
Hancock.	Findlay	Oct. 3-5
Harrison.	Cardiz	Oct. 2-4
Huron.	Norwalk	Oct. 2-4
Jackson.	Jackson	Oct. 3-4
Lake.	Painesville	Oct. 2-4
Lawrence.	Ironton	Sept. 25-27
Lorain.	Elyria	Oct. 1-4
Lucas.	Toledo	Oct. 2-4
Madison.	London	Sept. 18-20
Medina.	Marion	Oct. 1-4
Miami.	Medina	Oct. 3-4
Morgan.	Troy	Oct. 2-5
Morrow.	McConnellsville	Oct. 1-3
Portage.	Mt. Gilead	Oct. 2-4
Preble.	Ravenna	Oct. 1-3
Putnam.	Eaton	Sept. 17-20
Richland.	Ottawa	Oct. 2-4
Seneca.	Manassfield	Oct. 2-4
Sandusky.	Tiffin	Oct. 9-13
Stark.	Fremont	Oct. 2-4
Trumbull.	Canton	Oct. 1-4
Tuscarawas.	Warren	Sept. 17-19
Union.	Canal Dover	Sept. 25-27
Van Wert.	Marysville	Oct. 9-11
Warren.	Van Wert	Oct. 3-5
Wayne.	Lebanon	Sept. 11-13
Wyandotte.	Wooster	Oct. 9-1
	Upper Sandusky	Oct. 1-

## KENTUCKY.

South Kentucky	Glasgow	Oct. 1-4
Barren	Glasgow	Oct. 1-5
Breckenridge		Oct. 1-2
Boyle	Danville	Sept. 10-12
Fayette	Lexington	Sept. 24-28
Green	Greensburg	Oct. 8-11
Harrison	Cynthiana	Sept. 10-12
Mason and Bracken	Germantown	Sept. 10-14
McCracken	Paducah	Oct. 8-11
Nelson	Bardstown	Sept. 8-6
Salvisa	Salvisa	Sept. 8-6
Scott	Georgetown	Aug. 27, 29
Washington	Springfield	Oct. 1-4

## PENNSYLVANIA.

Bucks	Newtown	Sept. 24-26
Chester	West Chester	Sept. 26-28
Cumberland	Carlisle	Oct. 1-4
East Pennsylvania	Norristown	Sept. 11-17
Susquehanna	Montrose	Sept. 11, 12
Union		Oct. 2-4
Warren	Youngsville	Sept. 18-20
York	York	Oct. 1-4

## NEW JERSEY.

Burlington	Mount Holly	Oct. 1, 2
Central	near Trenton	Sept. 17-20
Hunterdon	Flemington	Sept. 24-26
Passaic	Patterson	Oct. 1-3

## CONNECTICUT.

Hartford	Hartford	Oct. 1-3
Millford and Orange	Millford	Oct. 2, 3
New London	Norwich	Oct. 8-11

## CANADA WEST.

Northumberland	Brighton	Oct. 2
Norwich	Norwich	Oct. 8, 9
South Grenville		Oct. 2-4
South Ontario	Whitby	Oct. 1, 2

## TENNESSEE.

Maury	Columbia	Oct. 8-12
West Tennessee	Union City, Obion Co.	Sept. 30-Oct. 5

## WISCONSIN.

Green Lake		Sept. 19-20
Ontagonie	Grand Chute	Sept. 17-18

## VERMONT.

Franklin	Richford	Sept. 18, 19
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## RHODE ISLAND.

Woonsocket	Woonsocket	Sept. 11, 12
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## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Connecticut River	Keene	Sept. 17-19
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## MICHIGAN.

Horse Show	Kalamazoo	Oct. 1-4
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## Questions for Discussion at the New York State Fair.

THE following subjects will be discussed during the evenings of the State Fair at Buffalo, Oct. 1-4:

1st. Whether the culture of the apple has not employed as much of our State as is profitable to a State? Hon. H. T. Brooks, of Wyoming, to open the discussion.

2nd. Cooking and cutting food for stock; its importance. E. W. Stewart, Esq., North Evans, will open the discussion.

3rd. Soiling Cattle. D. G. Mitchell will open the discussion.

## The American Farmer in Canada.

As long as the premium on gold continues, we shall send THE AMERICAN FARMER to our Canadian subscribers at 50 cents each, in clubs of five or more, or single subscriptions at seventy-five cents.

If American money is sent, our terms will be one dollar a year, or seventy-five cents in clubs. We prepay the American postage on all papers sent to Canada or any of the British Provinces.

## Baugh's Raw Bone Superphosphate.

THE advantages of this well established artificial manure, for the wheat crop, are shown by the following from the report of the New York Farmers' Club:

"Farmers are beginning to understand that wheat requires a concentrated fertilizer. If they manure with straw, the product will be straw. If they fatten the land with a bountiful supply of nitrogenous and phosphatic material, the yield of beautiful and heavy grain seldom fails. On this subject Dr. David Stuart, Port Penn., Del., writes, in relation to the result of an experiment in growing wheat when the ground was prepared by an application of about two hundred pounds of Baugh's raw bone superphosphate to the acre, leaving an unmanured strip contiguous. 'This raw bone,' he writes, 'was sown with my wheat, on the 19th of October, 1866. The unmanured strip did not afterward require any mark or stake to designate its limits. The apparent difference before harvest was at least ten bushels of grain per acre in favor of the portion manured with this commercial fertilizer. But the actual difference by weight of the crop was eighty-six per cent., including straw, in favor of the raw bone manure. The increase of grain alone was more than fifty-six per cent. over the unmanured portion of the field, which shows that it does pay to apply such commercial fertilizers.'"

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—TRIAL OF PLOWS, HARROWS AND CULTIVATORS.—At a meeting of the Executive Committee, at Buffalo, July 10th, it was resolved that the adjourned trial of plows be had on Mr. Butterfield's grounds, Utica, and to be held in September, commencing September 9th, to prepare the grounds for trial, and on the 11th of September the trial is to be commenced by the Judges. The exhibitors are requested to be in readiness, and the Judges are desired to be present on the 10th September, at Baggs' Hotel, preparatory to commencing their labors on the 11th of September. The trial of harrows and cultivators will follow the plows.

THE Thirty-Seventh Annual Exhibition of the American Institute of the City of New York, will commence September 12th and close October 26th. Every effort is being made to render it more notable than any national exhibition heretofore held on this continent. Premium lists, or any information, can be obtained by addressing J. W. Chambers, American Institute, New York.

## THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, Aug. 23, 1867.

FLOUR—White wheat, \$15.00@15.50. Red, \$13.00.
GRAIN—White wheat, 280@250c. Red, 210@215c. Corn, 10c. Barley, \$1.10. Rye, 180c. Oats, 75@80c.
BEANS—275@325.
HOPS—50@65@70c.
WOOL—40c.
HAY—\$14@17.
PROVISIONS—Lard, 18½@14c. Butter, 20@22c. Eggs, 22½@22c. Cheese, 12@15c. Potatoes, 50@55c. Dried apples, 25@12c. Chickens, 25@30c.



## New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS  
TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, Aug. 20.

**BEEF.**—Since my last report for THE AMERICAN FARMER, the prices for beef cattle have been unsteady and gradually declining, so that to-day the top of the market is 16c. per lb., net weight, for the best steers. This morning a very few extras brought 16½c. @ 17c. per lb., net weight. The general selling prices of fair to good bullocks is about 14c. @ 15c. per lb., net weight. Trade is dull and sales are slow at these figures. Large numbers of rough and poor oxen, old dry cows, half fattened steers and bulls without number, make up the quantity of the arrivals of beef cattle for the present week. Such animals as these sell for about 10c. @ 11c. per lb., net weight. The number of beef cattle at all the yards for the weekly supply, is 5,784.

**MILCH COWS.**—Very little is done with milch cows. The receipts for the past week number less than fifty head, including those received at all the yards. There is but little demand for milch cows. Those that are brought to market are generally quite inferior milkers, and are sold at \$40 @ \$50 per head. Occasionally a cow is sold as high as \$100. But cows that will command that price are seldom seen in the New York markets.

**CALVES.**—The calf market has been exceedingly steady during the past week. The receipts have not exceeded the requirements of the trade. The best calves will sell readily at 13c. per lb., live gross weight. As a general rule, however, the good and the poor are all sold at one price—say about 8c. @ 10c. per lb. When the best are separated from the common lots, and the poorest placed together, the latter will not bring more than 5c. @ 5½c. per lb. At this season of the year, the number of "grasses" is unusually large. The number of calves received at all the yards for the weekly supply for the past week, is 1,495. Several hundred of these being too poor to slaughter, were re-shipped to the country, where all the half-fattened animals should be kept until they are fit for human food.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS.**—The arrivals of sheep and lambs for the weekly supply amount to about 30,000. This very large number of this kind of stock was never before received in the New York markets in one week. The heavy receipts for the weekly supply have tended to glut the market. But there is a determination to keep up the prices at all hazards. Hundreds of poor sheep are sold at lower prices than any heretofore quoted. When a sheep broker receives a drove of miserable culls, he disposes of them as fast as possible, and it is difficult to ascertain the real price obtained for such inferior animals, from either buyer or seller, as they will not give the correct figures. Sheep sell for 4c. @ 5c. per lb., live weight. A small number only are worth 7c. per lb. Most of the sheep are too poor to slaughter. Lambs of the best quality sell for 8c. @ 10c. per lb., live weight, but they are required to be first rate to command those prices. Most of the sheep are sold at 5c. @ 6c. per lb., live weight.

**SWINE.**—The receipts at the hog yards have been uniformly heavy every week since the date of my last report. This week the total number exceeds 20,000, which is more than the trade requires. Fair to good sell to-day for 7½c. @ 7¾c. per lb., live weight. Common to fair hogs 7c. @ 7½c. per lb., live weight. Light, thin and rough hogs, 6c. @ 7c. per lb., live weight. They are not all sold, and prices are declining.

**GRAIN.**—At the present writing there is a fair demand for wheat, at the following prices, viz: New white Michigan at \$2.50 @ \$2.55; amber do. at \$2.30 @ \$2.35; amber Ohio at \$2.35; No. 8 to No. 2 spring at \$2 @ \$2.15; white Genesee at \$2.50; amber State at \$2.30 @ \$2.35; white Southern at \$2 @ \$2.50; amber do. \$2.20 @ \$2.47½; white California at \$2.50 per bushel. By comparing these figures with the quotations of my last report in the August number, one can see at a glance how the prices compare with the market four weeks ago.

Corn has been in brisk demand to-day, opening very firmly, continuing so up to about noon, and thenceforward to the close of business hours, steadily advancing in price so that each successive sale indicated an increasingly strong and buoyant market.

The inquiry was mainly speculative. Sales were reported yesterday of 205,000 bushels, at \$1.08 @ \$1.14½ for poor to extra mixed Western float and in store, closing at \$1.12 @ \$1.14; \$1.05 @ \$1.11 for unground and damp, and \$1.15 @ \$1.21 for yellow and white Western and Southern, per bushel.

Rye has been scarce and wanted; sales 2,100 bushels Canada at \$1.09 per bushel. Nothing new in barley or barley malt.

Oats have been in less demand at dropping prices. We quote: New western at from 51c. @ 52c. for the whole range of sound here, and 71c. @ 81c. for unsound; State at 59c. @ 64c.; New Jersey and Southern, 70c. @ 92c., as in quality; sales 56,000 bushels, part to arrive.

By reducing the wheat to flour, the quantity of the latter left at tide-water this year, compared with the corresponding period last year, shows a decrease of 277,500 barrels of flour.

**FLOUR AND MEAL.**—State and Western flour is in fair demand, and readily desirable lots, especially of spring wheat brands, have again improved slightly in price; sales were reported yesterday of 18,450 bbls., including poor to choice superfine State and Western, at \$7.50 @ \$8.40; very poor to good extra State at \$8.55 @ \$10.85; good to choice extra State at \$10.75 @ \$11.85; poor to good shipping brands of round hoop extra Ohio at \$9.50 @ \$11.20 per bbl. We now quote: Superfine State and Western, \$7.50 @ \$8.40; extra State, \$8.55 @ \$11.90; extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c., \$8.90 @ \$13.50; extra Ohio round-hoop, shipping brands, \$9.50 @ \$11.20; extra Ohio, trade and family brands, \$11.25 @ \$13.75; extra Genesee, \$12 @ \$13.75; common to choice extra Missouri, \$12 @ \$15.00. Southern flour is in less demand at former prices; sales were reported yesterday of 100 bbls., at \$10.50 @ \$14.25 for new, per bbl.; Canadian flour continues inactive and nominal. Rye flour is in fair request at from \$7 @ \$9.25 for inferior to very choice per lb.; sales, 450 bbls. Corn meal is in more demand at \$5.55 for city, \$5.50 for Western, \$5.75 for State and Jersey, and on private terms for Brandywine, per bbl.; sales 900 bbls. Of California flour sales were reported of 850 bbls. and sacks, at \$12.50 @ \$14.50 per bbl. of 120 lbs. Reports reach us from all parts of the country that the wheat crop is unusually heavy for this season. But, if farmers really knew, as we do, how such reports become current, they would not repose much confidence in the random assertions of men who know no more about the facts in the case than the Prince of Denmark.

**BUTTER.**—There has been a great improvement in the prices for the best qualities of butter, since my last report. The total receipts of butter for the week ending this day are 8,051 packages, a large portion of which is Western. Fresh milk butters are in light receipt, and have been advanced to 40c. for selections. Fine State firkins have also proportionately advanced. Fine marks of Western reserves are in better request at higher figures. Medium and low grades of butter are dull and heavy, without change in rates. Grease butters have been in active demand for export during the week, closing firmly at our advanced quotations. We quote: Orange and Sussex fresh pails, 35c. @ 40c. per lb.; Pennsylvania and State counties, fresh pails, 35c. @ 38c. per lb.; New York State firkins, prime yellow, 32c. @ 35c. per lb.; New York State firkins, light colored, 28c. @ 30c. per lb.; New York State half firkin tubs, good to prime 27c. @ 30c.; New York State Welsh tubs, good to prime, 28c. @ 30c. per lb.; Pennsylvania North firkins, good to prime 35c. @ 38c. per lb.; Western reserve firkins, good to prime, 22c. @ 25c. per lb.; Chicago and North-western firkins, good to prime, 16c. @ 22c. per lb.; Middle Ohio firkins, good to prime, 15c. @ 20c. per lb.; Grease butter, original packages, 10c. @ 11c. per lb.

**CHEESE.**—The cheese market has been unusually steady since my last report. The total receipts for the week ending this day are 42,042 boxes. The demand has been fairly active for export and home trade, the export inquiry being stimulated by a small advance in England, reported by Cable, instead of the decline so confidently predicted, which, occurring in the face of the late heavy shipments, settles the question as to the capacity of the

English markets, and also that prices both here and abroad have fairly touched bottom. The week's market closes with firmness at the following quotations: Factory dairies, extra,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., 18c. @ 14c.; Factory dairies, fair,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., 11c. @ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Farm dairies, extra,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., 11c. @ 12c.; Farm dairies, fair,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., 10c. @ 11c.; Skimmed cheese,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., 6c. @ 8c.

EGGS—There is an active demand for sound eggs, and receipts for the past week were light. Prices range about as follows: Jersey, extra brands, per dozen, 25c.; State and Penn., do., 24c. @ 25c.; Ordinary Western, do., 22c. @ 23c.; Western by Express, do., 23c. @ 24c.; Canada, do., 22c. @ 24c.

POULTRY—Fat poultry is scarce, and selling quickly, at the following rates, viz: Turkeys, 22c. @ 24c.  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb.; fowls, 22c. @ 24c.; spring chickens,  $\frac{3}{4}$  pair, 50c. @ \$1.00; geese,  $\frac{3}{4}$  pair, \$1.50 @ \$2.50; ducks,  $\frac{3}{4}$  pair, 75c. @ \$1.00.

BEANS—The market is steady, and the demand moderate. Prices are as follows: Beans, marrows, hand-picked,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel, \$4.40 @ \$4.70; Beans, medium, hand-picked,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel, \$4.25 @ \$4.40; beans, kidney, hand-picked,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel, \$4.50 @ \$4.75; prime beans, mixed parcels,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel, \$3.00 @ \$4.00; peas, Canada, in bulk,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel, \$1.25 @ \$1.80; peas, Canada, in bbls,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel, \$1.40 @ \$1.45.

POTATOES—Are abundant and cheap. There is scarcely a field on Long Island where they are not struck with the blight. For this reason farmers are hurrying them to market to save them. They are selling at the following rates: Jersey,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bbl., \$1.50 @ \$1.75; Long Island,  $\frac{3}{4}$  bbl., \$1.50 @ \$1.75.

WOOL—Has been accumulating in large quantities since my last report, with no increase in the price. Sales are exceedingly slow, at yielding prices. The following quotations will give the readers a fair idea of the market:

New York, Michigan and Vermont—Extra and above, 50c. @ 55c.;  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  blood do., 44c. @ 45c.; common and  $\frac{1}{4}$  do., 40c. @ 43c.

Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia—Choice Saxony fleece, 60c. @ 63c.; extra to XX do., 54c. @ 55c.;  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  blood do., 47c. @ 52c.; common and  $\frac{1}{4}$  do., 42c. @ 45.

Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Indiana—Extra and above, 47c. @ 50c.;  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  blood fleece, 42c. @ 45c.; common and  $\frac{1}{4}$  fleece, 38c. @ 40.

Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama—Washed fleeces, 44c. @ 47c.; unwashed fleeces, 30c. @ 34c.; unwashed fleece, burry, 16c. @ 20c.

Texas—Washed fleece, 35c. @ 37c.; unwashed fleece, medium to fine, 22c. @ 32c.; common fleece, 20c. @ 24c.; common fleece, burry, 14c. @ 20c.

California and Oregon—Washed fleece, medium, 42c. @ 44c.; unwashed fleece, medium and fine, 22c. @ 32c.; unwashed fleece, coarse, 18c. @ 20c.; unwashed burry, coarse, 12c. @ 16c.; pulled fine, 35c. @ 40c.; pulled medium, 30c. @ 35c.; pulled common, 26c. @ 28.

Pulled Wool—New York City, extra, 44c. @ 50c.; New York City, super, 40c. @ 43c.; New York City, No. 1, 30c. @ 33c.; New York City, No. 2, 18c. @ 16c.; Lambs, 38c. @ 40c.; Western limed pulled, 30c. @ 33c.; Southern limed pulled, 28c. @ 30c.; tub washed, 46c. @ 50c.

### Special Notices.

PARIS EXPOSITION.—SEWING-MACHINE AWARDS.—We recently published a brief telegram from Paris, announcing the award, over eighty-two competitors, to Messrs. Wheeler & Wilson, of the Highest Premium, a Gold Medal, for the perfection of Sewing Machines, and Button-Hole Machines. The following are copies of the official documents confirming the announcement:—

#### EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE,

PARIS, 1887.

COMMISSION IMPERIALE, CHAMPT-DE-MARS, }  
16th July, 1887.

MR. R. HUNTING, No. 189 REGENT ST., LONDON:—

DEAR SIR:—Replying to your inquiry, I beg to state that the only Gold Medal for the manufacture and perfection of Sewing Machines and Button-Hole Machines, was awarded to Messrs. Wheeler & Wilson, of New York.

Yours, respectfully, HENRY E. Q. D'ALIGNY,  
Member of International Jury and Reporter of same.

Another letter, of the same date, says:—

DEAR SIR:—Replying to your inquiry, I herewith give you the list of gold medals awarded to my class:

DUFOUR ET DUMERY, for Sewing Shoe Machines.

WHEELER & WILSON, New York, for the manufacture and perfection of their Sewing Machines and Button-Hole Machines. It is also, in the list of "Co-operators," a Gold Medal

granted to Mr. Elias Howe, Jr., personally, as Promoter of the Sewing Machine.

Respectfully yours, HENRY E. Q. D'ALIGNY,  
Reporter of Class No. 57 (Group No. 6.) Member of the International Jury at the Exposition Universelle.

Extract from *Le Montiteur Universelle*, official journal of the French Empire:

"The Wheeler & Wilson Company of New York, manufacturers of American Sewing Machines, have just received the Gold Medal at the Exposition Universelle, for the good construction of their machines; the new improvement for making button-holes applicable to their sewing-machines; also, for their machine especially for making button-holes. This award is accorded for the great development that Messrs. Wheeler & Wilson have given to the sewing-machine industry, in bringing their machines to the doors of all, by their cheapness and solid construction, which allows their employment with satisfaction in families, and with great advantage in work rooms."

SPLendid PRIZES IN GREENBACKS.—Over \$5,000 in Greenbacks; \$10,000 in Sewing Machines; \$900 in Washing Machines; a vast amount of Hoop Skirts, Albums, Books, Gold Pens, Pencils, Lockets, &c., &c., to be distributed to the subscribers and purchasers of the "HOME AMUSEMENT." Every yearly subscriber gets twenty-four tickets, drawing from \$5 to \$100 each in Greenbacks. Canvassing Agents clear from \$10 to \$15 per day raising clubs. Sample copies with a prize ticket and full directions and instructions to Agents, sent by mail, by enclosing 10 Cents, addressed to the HOME AMUSEMENT, 78 Nassau Street. Male and Female Canvassing Agents wanted in every town and neighborhood in the United States.

GOLD MEDAL THRESHING MACHINE.—Persons intending to purchase a Threshing Machine, will do well to send for Circulars and Judges' Report of the Machine awarded Two Grand Gold Medals at the great national trial, Auburn, July, 1886, manufactured by R. and M. Harder, Cobleskill, N. Y. See their advertisement in last number of THE AMERICAN FARMER. J. R. J. J. J.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.—Advertisements of interest to farmers, will be inserted in THE AMERICAN FARMER for 25 cents a line, or \$2.50 per square of 10 lines, each insertion, payable in advance. To secure insertion, they should be sent in by the 18th of the previous month. THE FARMER has subscribers in every State, and nearly every Territory. There is no better or cheaper medium for advertising everything of general interest to rural residents in all parts of the United States and Canada. Special notices, 50 cents per line.

## ELLWANGER & BARRY'S SEEDLING STRAWBERRY "NICANOR."

HAVING FRUITED IT FOR SIX YEARS, WE PRO-  
nounce it a decided acquisition to the list of Market Strawberries. Plant very hardy and vigorous, surpassing in quantity of fruit, and hardness of vine, any other variety we have ever tested. It commences to ripen a few days before the Early Scarlet, and continues on up to the latest, thus making it profitable at both ends of the season. Fruit from 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter, very regular and uniform in size, roundish conical, bright scarlet, and more firm and not so acid as the White. Plants will be ready for delivery about the 15th of September, at \$5 per dozen.

ELLWANGER & BARRY,  
Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.

#### GRAPE VINES.

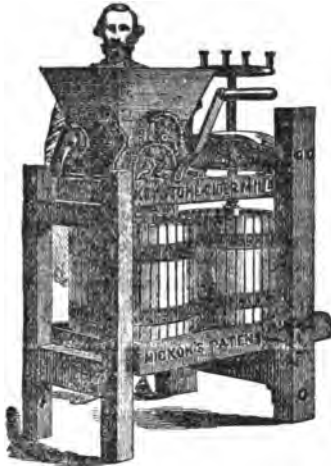
SALEM, ROGERS NO. 1, 4, 15, 19, IONA, ISRAELLA, ADIRONDACK, Delaware, Diana, and the Hartford Prolific, the most profitable of all the early grapes. Our Hartford vineyard is producing this season full five tons per acre, being the ninth successive crop. C. L. HOAG & CO.,  
Lockport Grape Nurseries, Lockport, N. Y.

## THE CHAMPION

HICKOK'S PATENT PORTABLE

## KEYSTONE CIDER &amp; WINE MILL.

Over 15,000 in Use and Approved.



This admirable machine is now ready for the fruit harvest of 1867, is made in the most perfect manner, with two tube, and is well worthy the attention of all persons wanting such a machine. It has no superior in the market, and is the only mill that will properly grind grapes.

FOR SALE BY ALL RESPECTABLE DEALERS.

I also make two sizes of superior

PRESSES FOR BERRIES, &amp;c.

If your merchant does not keep them, tell him to send for one for you, or write for one yourself. Address the manufacturer.  
sep-8t W. O. HICKOK, Harrisburg, Pa.

## GRAPES.

TO PRODUCE A GOOD CROP OF GRAPES EVERY Year, commanding remunerative prices, we regard as

## SUCCESSFUL GRAPE GROWING,

and to grow annually from bearing vineyards, an immense stock of HEALTHY VINES, which are scattered all over the country, by mail and express, giving entire satisfaction wherever planted, in their growth and yield of fruit. We consider

## SUCCESSFUL VINE GROWING.

We have TWENTY-FIVE ACRES in Vineyard, and TEN ACRES in young vines for sale. Our vineyards and nurseries have been visited this season by some of the most prominent fruit growers of the country, who pronounce our crop of fruit and stock of vines, unsurpassed if equalled, by any they have seen.

The proper place to determine the merits of a grape, is in the vineyard, when in fruit, and we prefer in all cases where it is practicable, that persons wanting our vines, should see them before purchasing.

Our Grape Show, this season, will be on Wednesday, the 9th of October, instead of a week later as advertised. We cordially invite all who are interested in Grape culture, to attend.

Our Stock of Vines comprises all desirable kinds, and our prices will be found reasonable.

DESCRIPTIVE AND ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE sent to all applicants enclosing Ten Cents. Early orders are solicited.

J. KNOX,

sep

Box 155, Pittsburg, Pa.

## STRAWBERRIES.

AFTER A TRIAL OF EIGHT YEARS, we unhesitatingly say, that for

UNIFORM AND LARGE SIZE,  
BEAUTY OF FORM AND COLOR,  
ENORMOUS YIELD,  
LONG CONTINUANCE IN BEARING,  
HEALTH AND VIGOR OF PLANT,  
ADAPTATION TO SHIPMENT,  
GREAT PROFIT,  
AND OTHER DESIRABLE QUALITIES, THE

## JUCUNDA, OUR NO. 700,

IS THE MOST VALUABLE STRAWBERRY OF WHICH WE HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE.

**Plant the Best.** It is poor economy to grow inferior varieties, when the best can be obtained, though the plants could be had for nothing. We can make more money on one acre of Jucunda—our No. 700, than we can on five of Wilson.

For full information in reference to this wonderful Strawberry, its uniformly immense crops, fine shipping qualities, and high market value—testimonials from different parts of the country, opinions of Dr. John A. Warder, author of American Pomology; Prof. George Thurber, editor of American Agriculturist; Thos. Meehan, editor of Gardener's Monthly; M. B. Bateham, Secretary of Ohio Pomological Society; George Beeler, late Secretary of Indiana Horticultural Society; A. W. Harrison, Secretary of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society—and many others. See the

## New Edition of Our Catalogue;

which also contains complete lists of the best early, medium, and late varieties, for both home use and market purposes. Prices of plants, grown in Pots, and otherwise, by mail and express, and much other valuable information in reference to the Strawberry.

We will furnish strong plants of

## JUCUNDA, OUR NO. 700,

this fall at the following prices:

By Mail ..... \$1.00 per dozen \$6.00 per 100  
By Express ..... 6.00 " \$50 per 1,000

POT GROWN PLANTS FOR BEARING A FULL CROP OF FRUIT NEXT SEASON.

2-inch Pots,	\$3 per doz.	\$12 per 100	\$100 per 1,000
8 " "	2.50 "	15 "	125 "
4 " "	3.00 "	20 "	150 "

For Prices of other varieties, SEE CATALOGUE, which will be sent to all applicants enclosing Ten Cents.

J. KNOX,

Box 155, Pittsburg, Pa.

## NEW GRAPES.

SALEM, AND DIANA HAMBURG, IONA, ISRAELLA, ADIRONDAC, CONCORD, CREVELING, UNION VILLAGE, ALLEN'S HYBRID, DIANA, ROGERS' SEEDLINGS, Nos. 1, 3, 4, 9, 15, 19, 33, & 43.

## NEW BLACKBERRIES.

Kittatinny and Wilson's Early

Raspberries.

Prince of Wales and Victoria.

## NEW ROSES, &amp;c., &amp;c.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE TO

JOHN CHARLTON, Box 674,

sep

Rochester, N. Y.

## FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES

For the Fall of 1867.

## ELLWANGER &amp; BARRY

INVITE THE ATTENTION OF PLANTERS, NURSERYMEN, and Dealers in Trees, to their extensive stock now offered for the Fall Trade.

In the departments of

**HARDY FRUIT TREES,  
ORNAMENTAL TREES,  
Shrubs and Plants,**

the collections are the most extensive and complete in the United States.

Prompt and careful attention given to all

**Orders, and Packing Done**

in the most skillful and thorough manner.

Full particulars will be found in the following Catalogues, which will be sent prepaid to applicants who enclose stamps:

No. 1 and 2—Ten Cents each; No. 3—Five Cents; No. 4—Three Cents.

No. 1—A Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogue of Fruits.

No. 2—A Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogue of Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Rosas, &amp;c., &amp;c., &amp;c.

No. 3—A Catalogue of Dahlias, Verbenas, Petunias, and select new Greenhouse and Boddling Plants, published every Spring.

No. 4—A Wholesale Catalogue or Trade List.

**ELLWANGER & BARRY.**

Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.

**STRAWBERRY PLANTS,**

Sent out Prepaid, in August and September, at annexed Prices, and Lower, if so offered in this Paper.

Jenny Lind, Downer, French, Early Washington, Wilson and Russell,

20 Cents per dozen ..... 75 Cents per 100.

Fillmore, Shaker, Buffalo, Green Prolific, New Jersey Scarlet, and Agriculturist,

20 Cents per dozen ..... \$1.00 per 100.

Golden Queen, Metcalf, Juncunda, and Ida,

20 Cents per dozen ..... \$2.00 per 100.

Enormous quantities of all kinds of

**Small Fruits at very Low Rates.**

Parties intending to set largely, or buy to sell again, should correspond with me. Address,

aug-21

A. M. PURDY, South Bend, Ind.

**PREMIUM FARM GIST MILL.**

SIMPLE, CHEAP, DURABLE, AND EFFICIENT. Will grind all kinds of grain rapidly. Is adapted to all kinds of horse power. Also, the best Fodder, Hay, and Straw Cutter for Farm use. Send for Descriptive Circular, and address  
spst WM. L. BOYER & BRO., Philadelphia, Pa.

## TO OUR CUSTOMERS.

WE take pleasure in announcing to Dealers in Fertilizers and the Agricultural public, that we have within the past year increased our facilities for the manufacture of our RAW BONE PHOSPHATE, to an extent unequalled by any other House in the United States or Europe. The facilities not only include the enlargement of our old established works in Philadelphia, known as the DELAWARE RIVER AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL WORKS, but also the purchase of extensive and well-stocked works at Chicago, Ill., with all the necessary machinery, &c., &c., to conduct the business. This establishment alone has produced annually over 5,000 tons of dried Bones and Meat, and is capable of being largely increased. We desire, by the closest supervision, to conduct these two concerns so that our customers will derive a practical benefit from their consolidation, in obtaining a MANURE which shall maintain a standard and uniform quality, and at the lowest possible price.

sep

**BAUGH & SONS.****PERUVIAN GUANO SUBSTITUTE.****BAUGH'S****RAW BONE SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME.****BAUGH & SONS**

Sole Proprietors and Manufacturers, Delaware River Chemical Works, Philadelphia, and Calumet Works, Chicago.

For Wheat, Rye, and all Crops and Plants, and adapted to all soils requiring an active and permanent Fertilizer.

Farmers are recommended to purchase of the dealer located in their neighborhood. In sections where no dealer is yet established, the Phosphate may be procured directly from the undersigned. A Priced Circular will be sent to all dealers who apply.

**BAUGH BROTHERS & CO.,**

General Wholesale Agents,

No. 181 Pearl Streets, New York.

FOR SALE by Dealers in all parts of the United States and the Dominion of Canada.

sep

**NEW STRAWBERRIES FOR 1867-8.**

**Napoleon III.** The best amateur berry in cultivation. Price, (by mail, postage paid.) \$8 per doz.

**Perpetual Pine.** A perpetual, large fruited strawberry of the Pine Class. Price, (by mail, postage paid.) \$1 for 2 plants. \$5 per doz.

Send for illustrated descriptive circular.

We also offer a large and splendid stock of

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# THE AMERICAN FARMER

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VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1867.

No 10.



The harvest season closes in ;

The latest ripened crops are safely housed,  
And swollen garners prove the heavy yield.  
The barns are bursting with the bearded grain,  
Or scented hay and broad-leaved husky corn.  
The cellar's hidden bins are stored with roots,  
And piled with tiers of barrels, row on row ;  
Filled up with orchard spoils, whose russet sides  
Contrast with blushing cheeks and waxen glow.  
The latest garden fruits are gathered in,  
And thin-skinned grapes betray their pulpy sweets.  
An early frost has laid its withering blight  
Upon the tender vines and juicy plants,  
Till but a blackened mass of deadened stalks  
Is seen where erst were flowers and nodding leaves  
In all the pride and glow of growing life.  
So comes the reaper Death with killing frosts,  
And scathing sickle in the field of life,  
To wip the tender plant, or laying low  
The proudest head, leaves only dreary wastes,  
Where all was joy, and health, and lusty life.

Belfast, Me.

G. R. R.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

IT has long been demonstrated that alternate crops on land succeed better than a continued cropping of the same cereals, and as the season for laying out the farm for another year is upon us, we must be careful against planting the same crops as during the previous year. Especially is this applicable to the Western States, where wheat and corn have been for years planted on the same ground. We cannot wonder at the reduced yield per acre on land cropped with wheat for a succession of years ; but as we are progressing in agricultural knowledge and science, it is most important that we bear these facts in mind, and not fall into the errors of our predecessors. Fields that have been devoted to one crop should now be seeded to another, or better still be seeded to grass and allowed time to recuperate those succulent constituents which are necessary for the continued production of those crops we wish to raise.

**A SUCCESSION OF CROPS**—will always prove most advantageous on all soils, but there is a diversity of opinions as to the best rotation. The principal object we should have in view is that no crop should be raised from the same field for more than two years in succession, and then only on very rich, well cultivated, or new land. Give special attention to the

**DRAINAGE**—of your farm, without which no land that is surfeited with water can be made to produce large crops. By draining a few acres at first we can learn by practical experience the advantages derived, and by applying the proceeds or profits of the first crop from the land thus drained, to drain other portions, a large farm can with a small outlay at first, be brought into the highest state of fertility. But manure will be needed. At this time special attention should be given to the

**MANURE HEAP**.—Where straw is plentiful, a liberal supply ought to be distributed over the farm yard to absorb the liquid. Leaves, road scrapings, and decaying vegetable matter should be gathered, and well composted before it is carted to the field.

**FALL FLOWING**—may now be pushed rapidly forward, and if possible all the land intended for spring seeding be got into good condition early.

**BUILDINGS**—ought now to be thoroughly overhauled and put in good repair before the storms of winter overtake us. Repair loose boards, &c., and straighten up generally this month. Where new barns are in course of erection, push them rapidly forward to completion, and sheds should be liberally supplied for stock to run under in the yard.

**BEEs**.—Little labor is required in this month, except feeding. Every apiarian should thoroughly examine every hive, and any family found short of 25 lbs. of honey, (40 lbs. is better,) should be fed. J. H. Graves, of this city, has an excellent arrangement for feeding. Should a family have 20 lbs. left in the spring, all the better, it will induce early breeding, consequently early swarming, and more surplus honey. Do not allow your bees to suffer death by starvation.

### MICHIGAN STATE FAIR.

THE Fair of the Michigan State Agricultural Society was held this year at Detroit, Sept. 10-13. The weather was as fine as could be desired, but the clouds of dust on the roads to the ground was anything but agreeable. The location of the grounds and the arrangements for the show of stock and the display of flowers, fruits, &c., was highly creditable to the officers of the Society. The number of entries in all was over 2,000, and the attendance larger than at any previous fair, being over 14,000, the second day, and estimated over 25,000 on the third day. Looking over the

#### CATTLE.

We found our own State well represented from the herd of Walter Cole, Batavia, N. Y., who showed some very fine specimens of the pure Devon breed of cattle—13 head in all. J. Butterfield, of Lapeer, Mich., exhibited 2 cows and 2 calves of the same breed, bred by C. S. Wainright, of Rhinebeck, N. Y. Mr. Pierce, of Disco, exhibited four cows of the Devon breed, 1 bull and 3 calves.

Of Durham cattle we found some fine animals exhibited by L. M. Uhl, of Ypsilanti. Mr. U. was formerly a resident of Monroe county, N. Y., and has always paid great attention to stock raising. The animals shown by him gave good evidence of the care which he takes in them. His Durham bull bred by Mr. Alexander, of Kentucky, now four years old, showed good points. Several cows and yearlings of his own raising were on the grounds, and gave good promise of making fine animals. A. B. Taber, of Detroit, exhibited two fine Durham heifers. Mr. Tillotson, of Marshall, had a full blooded Shorthorn bull bred by J. O. Sheldon, of Geneva, N. Y., now fifteen months old, which will make a noble animal. Also by the same exhibitor seven pure-bred Shorthorns. C. Whitaker, of Lima, had on exhibition a one-year old Shorthorn heifer; also a cow, and heifer three months old.

*Herefords* were well represented by a fine two year old bull, the property of Edwin Phelps, of Pontiac, who also exhibited seven cows and one bull calf of the same breed—all fine specimens of this noble breed. C. J. Sprague, of Farmington, had twin calves, four months old, and of large size, on exhibition.

The State Agricultural College exhibited superior pure-blooded stock, among them a magnificent looking Galloway bull bred by Mr. Snell, of Edmonton, Canada. This noble specimen of the famous Scotch breed attracted more attention than any other animal on the ground. It was highly amusing to hear the remarks made by visitors, many of whom thought it must be a "buffalo," being hornless. "Victor" is a fine animal, three years old, and weighs nearly 2,000 lbs.

"Donald Dhu," a fine Ayrshire bull, three years old, bred by Mr. Peters of Southboro, Mass., and a two-year old pure blooded Devon bred by the State College, were exceedingly fine specimens of these breeds.

Of grades, there was a large show of very fine animals highly creditable to the farmers of the State. William Smith, of Detroit, had quite a number on the ground, which drew a large crowd of admiring gazers. In the first stalls we found two large working oxen which were particularly worthy of note, and which attracted a good deal of attention. The pair were estimated to weigh about 7,500 pounds.

#### SHEEP.

This department was filled with a large number of very fine specimens of the different breeds, particularly of the long wool class. We were somewhat surprised to find so few pens of the fine woolled or Merinos. The farmers of Michigan are turning their attention principally to mutton sheep, finding this class to be more profitable, and they are importing largely from Canada from bloods of the long wool breeds. Several Canada breeders were on hand with a large number of long woolled sheep of the Leicester, Cotswold, and Southdowns; these with the stock from the farmers of the State made as fine an exhibition of sheep as we have seen for some time.

E. Driggs, of Rome Center, Mich., brought out 98 head of Leicesters and Cotswolds; among them many superior animals which have taken first class prizes. One buck shown by him has sheared 29 1/2 lbs. of cleansed wool.

E. Wallington, Lodi, Mich., exhibited two pens of fine Cotswold sheep.

From Canada, George Miller, of Markham, the well known breeder of long wool sheep had a large number of superior blooded stock on the grounds, of the Leicester, Cotswold, and Shropshire-down class.

Mr. Toms of Oshawa, showed 20 Cotswolds and 20 Southdowns.

Mr. Bishop, of Woodstock, exhibited 70 head of long wool sheep, mostly Leicesters.

Of Merinos, L. G. Thompson, of North Adams, and P. S. Carlton, of St. Clair, Mich., were the only exhibitors, and showed superior animals of that class.

#### SWINE.

Of pigs, there were a number of fine animals of the different breeds. White Chester, Essex, and Suffolks, appear to be favorites in Michigan. Of the former, H. D. Court, of Battle Creek, had some large specimens. One boar, of fine proportions, weighed 764 lbs. J. S. Tibbitts, of Nankin, six pigs of the Essex breed; also one Yorkshire boar. William Smith, of Detroit, showed some superior Essex and

White Chester, and a large number of very fat animals that would yield little but lard.

#### POULTRY.

The arrangements for the poultry department of the exhibition were very convenient and worthy of imitation. The building set apart for this purpose was about sixty feet long by about ten in width, with a passage way down the center. The compartments were divided into two tiers, and subdivided into coops of two by three feet. The show was very inferior, and few in number, only about a dozen coops being filled, showing conclusively that the "hen fever" has not extended to the Peninsula State.

#### FRUITS, FLOWERS, &C.

From the reputation which Michigan holds for fruit growing, we hoped to see a large display of fruit, and were somewhat disappointed in this department—but the few exhibitors tried to make up in quantity and numerous varieties of fruit for the lack of number in exhibitors. On entering Fruit Hall, we found to the left a good display of 70 varieties of apples by John Gilbert of Ovid, who had also several varieties of pears and plums. Among the pears were excellent specimens of Flemish Beauty, Seckel, and Bartlett.

W. F. Bradley, of Bedford, exhibited a fine collection of apples.

B. N. Leonard, of St. Joseph, showed some six varieties of freestone peaches. The peach crop this year is the largest ever raised in the State, and of very good quality.

Barney & Carlin had some 25 varieties of grapes, among which the Concord appeared particularly fine. Many of the varieties shown were quite green, while others were far from ripe. The time of holding the fair was a little too early for a good display of this delicious fruit.

*Floral Hall* was a neat and appropriate building in the form of a cross, well adapted for the purpose which its name indicated. The space occupied by flowers was very limited. Here were to be found all kinds of instruments, paintings, sewing and knitting machines, and a general collection of choice and fancy articles, too numerous to mention.

John Ford, of Detroit, made a fine display of greenhouse plants, also of Phloxes, Dahlias, and Verbenas.

William Adair, of Detroit, exhibited a beautiful bouquet and floral design, which attracted much attention. Also several greenhouse plants.

Mr. James Vick, of this city, made a brilliant display of German Asters, Gladiolas, and Phloxes, which were very attractive.

#### AGRICULTURAL HALL.

Contained a large number of boxes of cheese and

butter. A large factory is in operation at Fairfield, which will probably turn out 230 tons of cheese this year.

#### IMPLEMENTS, &C.

The manufacturers of implements were here in full force, and made a good display. Mowers and reapers with additional improvements and new patents, plows, cultivators, drills, horse rakes, potato planters, and diggers, threshing machines, and horse powers, all of which were of good workmanship—but too numerous for us to go into details. We noticed a new stump puller, exhibited by C. M. Bowen, of Vineland, N. J. It appeared to be very simple. The power is on the lever principle, and will raise a weight of from ten to twenty tons according to size.

L. C. Rose, of Detroit, exhibited a new adjustable hoe, a very complete and convenient article, and worthy of attention. The blade can be set at any angle with the handle, to hoe deep or shallow, or it can be adjusted strait with the handle.

C. B. & G. W. Hart, of Victor, N. Y., exhibited a new combined milk rack and fruit drier, which is very simple, and the cost so small, as to be within the reach of every farmer who feels the need of one. They are large enough to set 48 pans of milk on, and can be easily changed for a fruit drier, when needed in the summer or fall.

R. L. Howard, of Buffalo, exhibited a one-horse endless plank power which is so constructed that the horse walks on strait planks, 18 inches wide. The sections of plank are from 3 to 12 inches wide, and run lengthwise of the apron.

We are pleased to learn that this fair was the most successful exhibition ever held in the State. At the close the following officers were unanimously elected for the coming year:

*President*—W. G. Beckwith, Cassopolis.

*Secretary*—R. F. Johnstone, Detroit.

*Treasurer*—E. O. Humphrey, Kalamazoo.

*Executive Committee*—J. A. Walters, Kalamazoo; F. S. Scrantom, Grand Rapids; K. C. Barker, William Adair, Detroit; John Gilbert, Ypsilanti; W. J. Baxter, Jonesville; Manly Miles, Lansing.

"S. W.," on page 302, makes a quotation from J. Harris, in his "Walks and Talks," and we are rather surprised that Mr. H. should have made such a statement, as he has always been in favor of plowing in clover. We presume he referred to enriching land for wheat. His idea seems to have been that summer fallowing for wheat would enrich land as much as plowing in the clover grown during the same time. For corn, as we understand his views, he thinks carbonaceous matter more valuable than for wheat, and consequently plowing under clover would enrich land for corn more than a summer fallow, as contended by our esteemed correspondent.

### CULTIVATE CROPS ADAPTED TO YOUR SOIL.

It is of the utmost importance to successful farming that the crops grown be adapted to the soil. Some farms are better adapted to grass than grain, and yet the owners may be vainly endeavoring to make money by raising grain, and on the other hand, some farmers may be relying on stock for profit on decided grain farms. In the latter case they find that their farms are overstocked—then stock does not thrive, and they have to consume all their profits in buying fodder.

At the prices which have ruled for dairy products for the last five years, we are inclined to think a good grass farm more profitable than one more specially adapted to grain. Beef, mutton, wool, pork, milk, butter, and cheese, have all commanded high prices, and probably will for years to come. Where the farms are located at some distance from market, the superior value of grass farms is still more apparent. The cost of transporting the raw products of the soil to market is greater than it is where they are concentrated by being converted into meat, wool, hides, butter, and cheese.

Low mucky land, and stiff, moist clays, will generally pay better in stock; while dry, sandy, and gravelly loams indicate a grain farm. High, rugged hills, difficult of cultivation, are specially adapted to sheep grazing; the short, natural grasses which they produce being more palatable and nutritious than the more luxurious growth of lowlands. A portion of a grass farm will be under culture every year, in order to break up and reseed pastures and meadows that have run out, but the grain produced should never be sold, but fed to the stock. In this way the stock can be made profitable, and their manure being returned to the land, will keep up fertility.

A question of great importance to owners of stock farms is, whether it is more economical to raise their own stock, or to purchase them when they have reached the most profitable age for use. Of course, with such stock as sheep or swine, which soon grow into value, there can be little doubt that it is more economical to raise than to buy them; unless the loss in wool and mutton to lamb-bearing ewes, is greater than the value of the lambs; but with cows and beef cattle the case is different. It would undoubtedly be more profitable to the dairyman to keep his cows only during that portion of their lives when they yield the most milk—say from six to nine years of age, and if dairymen could always replenish their herds with good six-year old cows at moderate prices, it would be more economical to buy than to raise them; but if that were the rule the supply must soon fail. So it would seem that

there is no way so reliable, as to save the heifer calves of those cows which show the highest qualifications for that branch of the dairy business which it is the design of the farmer to pursue.

Where the leading object is beef, we are of the opinion that those farmers have made the most money, who have bought animals at the best age for fattening, and then made beef of them in the quickest time compatible with economical feeding. To succeed in beef-making the farmer must be a good trafficker. We have known farmers possessing the latter qualification, make handsome fortunes by buying up cattle, feeding them until they were in good condition for beef, and then selling to drovers, or shipping to market themselves.

Those sheep husbandmen who rely upon mutton as well as wool for profit, generally succeed best. Every flock will show some animals that have a tendency to wool, and others to flesh; let a judicious assortment be made, and every animal devoted to that purpose for which it is best suited, and the farmer's gains will be increased proportionally.

Some farmers succeed well in horse-breeding, but in this business it is very important the *farmer*, as well as the farm, should be adapted to the business. He must understand the *horse*, and how to buy, trade, and sell him. Some men will sell a colt for 50 per cent more than others would.

Upon the whole, we think a stock farmer requires more intelligence than a grain farmer. He should possess, in addition to a knowledge of the best way to grow grass and grain, an intimate acquaintance with the nature and habits of animals. After all, probably those farmers are uniformly most successful, whose farms are adapted to both grass and grain, and who are enabled in consequence, to pursue a mixed husbandry.

To those farmers who have struggled hard for years, and succeeded only in making a bare living, we would say, consider well the nature and capacities of your soil, and see if you have not been cultivating those crops for which it is least adapted, and perhaps by changing your crops, you may succeed in accumulating a competence to support you in your old age, and leave a little to start your children in life.

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TO CURE WARTS ON HORSES AND CATTLE.—Take a small quantity of blue vitriol, pulverize it, and add enough water to make it into a paste; rub the warts over with this once or twice, which will effectually cure them.—*W. D. D., Spencer, O.*

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Boys who make cows run should be located for a few minutes where they would give a good deal if they themselves could run.

## FARM TALKS---No. 12.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT,  
BELFAST, MAINE.

My neighbor Smith came in this morning wearing a very perplexed look, and evidently considerably excited about something. I can tell when Smith is agitated, for he shows it in his face and actions, and has not that power of control which allows a person to appear calm while laboring under deep excitement. After some talk on general subjects he broke out with :—

"I can't keep my boys at home. There's John went away last year, and now William wants to leave, though he ain't only seventeen, and no more fit to go out into the world for himself than a child. I don't see how other folks keep their boys at home, I can't."

"I suppose, then, they ain't satisfied with things on the farm."

"No, they're oneasy from morning till night, and don't give me any peace."

"Could'n't something be done to make them satisfied with farm life?"

"I don't know; boys ain't same as they used to be. They get big notions in their heads, and don't stick to work as well."

"Perhaps we farmers don't give them enough privileges. We mustn't forget that they are *boys*, and *not men*, and use them accordingly."

"When I was a boy I didn't think of having so many privileges as they have now."

"Very well, but times were far different then from now. We must take things as they are in the age we live, and endeavor to conform to the prevailing customs. Do you give your boys plenty of holidays and time to rest, as well as look round a little?"

"Yes, they always go to 4th of July, and the circusses."

"Did you take them to cattle show last year?"

"Well, no; you see I wanted to get my potatoes out afore they rotted any worse."

"That was hardly fair. The cattle show is peculiarly intended for the farmers' boys, and it's wrong to cheat them out of attending."

"You don't think they do boys any good, do you?"

"Why not? Farmers' boys learn easily, and are very observant. I think they would be more likely to notice changes and improvements than their elders. A knowledge of what others are doing would stimulate them to action with the hope of equalling or surpassing a neighbor. We are not apt to give our boys credit for all they do know. You kept your boys to school during the winter terms, I suppose."

"Generally; but last winter I had considerable cordwood to get out, so William had to help me. It wout pay to hire a man."

"That was a 'penny wise and pound foolish' policy. Give your boys all the schooling possible, at least do not let them lose a day of the winter term. Better stay at home yourself and do the chores, than they should remain out of school. And every farmer who can possibly spare the means, should allow his boys a term at the high school or academy in the fall after harvesting, as soon as they are sixteen years old. You take plenty of papers, especially agricultural papers, I suppose?"

"Well, no; I did have THE FARMER, but it don't come now; but I have a political paper."

"I think I see where the trouble is, Smith. I'm afraid your boys don't find home attractive. Perhaps they have come to associate the word *home* with a place where they have only ate and staid, instead of a pleasant refuge where the body and mind is rested and restored. Perhaps you have kept them too often and too late in the fields, and not given them enough recreation. Perhaps—mind you, I say, *perhaps*—they have got an idea that any other place is more pleasant than the farm and the life they lead there. If so, by all means correct this idea by removing the causes. Remember that 'all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,' and give them all the holidays consistent with justice. Make the house a home in reality to them when not engaged in farm work—not a mere place to eat and sleep in. Fix up the sitting room; get some books and pictures, and don't be afraid to spend ten dollars or more a year for periodicals. It will pay you compound interest, and whatever you can do with your money on the farm or about your home that will exert an influence towards making your boys contented and satisfied, will be better than mortgages on real estate, or 7-30s, to be left for them to quarrel over after you are gone."

## CURE FOR THE GARGET.

IN the May number for this year, page 149, we published a sure cure for the garget, from "W. D. D.," of Ohio, which was copied by the *Boston Traveler*, from which we learn that it was tried by three different gentlemen owning cows in the neighborhood of Boston, which were troubled with this disease. They report that it proved effectual in each case. We are pleased to record the success of this remedy, and hope others who have tried it will give us the result. We shall also be glad to receive items of similar import from our friends for publication as they cannot but fail to reach a large number of persons who will be benefited with the knowledge of remedies and cures applied by many of our readers which are as yet unknown.

READ our premium list on the last page.

## NOTES—BY "S. W."

EDS. FARMER:—I here enclose a letter I got the other day from Dr. Thompson, that you might extract what he says of the wild flowers of the vales of Alpine Switzerland. Some of our friends are much pleased with it.

The September number of THE FARMER is capital: those two prize essays on cows are unique, and very interesting; "G. E. B.," as a poet, is akin to Whittier, which is praise enough; farming under difficulties in "Kansas and the West," is to the life; he does not sugar over a new country as though he had a land agency there.

Joseph Harris, in his "Walks and Talks on the Farm," says "he is not sure that a good summer fallow would not enrich land just as well as plowing under a crop of corn." Although J. H. has had the benefit of an English farm school training, and is undoubtedly second to none in our land in the science and practice of agriculture—yet I think he might have got a new wrinkle this very dry summer, if he had been blessed with a small patch of calcareous clay loam planted to corn. The good effect of carbonaceous manure on such land was perhaps never more apparent here than it has been this season; where coarse manure was trenched in in the fall, the corn yielded a large crop; but where fine nitrogenous manure was trenched in, the soil cracked open in July in spite of frequent hoeings, and the yield was naught.

Since the 4th of July we have not had over one and a half inches of rain in this region. (Seneca county, N. Y.) We have not had so dry a summer since 1854. But although many farmers are cutting up their corn for fodder, there are a few good crops. In proof that early planting on a well-drained, highly manured soil, will give a maximum crop of Indian corn in the worst seasons, I had a full crop of garden sweet corn in 1854, another last season, when the cold and wet weather of August and September cut off the general crop; and again this very dry season. But that I planted late for late eating, will not yield half a crop. To plant corn on undrained land, trusting to a favorable season to make the crop, is a great folly. I have always found that the earliest planted corn never fails to ripen first, it never rots in the ground if the land is underdrained, and if it comes up and turns yellow, it is growing at the root, and it will go ahead of the thriftiest late planted corn.

[The above letter referred to by our esteemed correspondent, is so full of interest that we give it below nearly entire.—Eds.]

\* \* \* I have just been over the famous Splugen Pass, on our way to the lakes of Northern Italy, but as we could find no conveyance that would carry us

without spending a portion of the night on the road, we determined to wait another day, taking an early start, and thus accomplish the whole by daylight. Splugen is not otherwise remarkable than as lying between the famous Via Mala and the Splugen Pass, and must of necessity be passed in visiting these two points of interest in a Swiss tour. It is elevated nearly five thousand feet above the level of the sea—its range of vegetable production rather limited, barley scarcely ripening. I saw nothing that was directly food producing, except a small patch of potatoes. As grass grows abundantly, it is eminently a pastoral region. A large portion of the population, including men and women, and children as well, are engaged in harvesting the hay crop, the greater part of which is already secured. The whole valley has the appearance of a nicely kept lawn. Inquiring of my host if there were any points of interest suitable for a walk or an excursion, he pointed out the ruins of a castle at no great distance. Following his directions I passed through several meadows lying on the steep slopes of one side of the valley, too steep for secure footing, except by following the track of a worn footpath. I soon reached the ruin, and climbing up the steep and rocky height upon which it was erected, a most enchanting view was spread out before me—the valley shut in at both ends and circular in shape, resembled an immense bowl lined with the most vivid green, the little village of Splugen in its center, standing on the Rhine, which is here a good sized rivulet, and dividing the bowl into two halves. The upper margin of the bowl was formed of a magnificent belt of evergreens, circling the valley in its entire circumference, and reaching half way up the mountain sides. Above this circlet of trees an outer circle of rocks ran to the very clouds, every where dotted and capped with eternal snow.

After a glance at the exceedingly beautiful and interesting panorama with which I was surrounded, my attention was directed to the minor beauties of this Alpine paradise. I found myself surrounded with a profusion of beautiful flowers; the grass and surrounding outcropping of rocks and rock boulders, was all aglow with rich and varied coloring. I at once set myself at work to examine these floral treasures, and soon had collected about seventy varieties, many very beautiful in form and color, some very curious in structure, and all of them possessing more or less of interest. Many of them were old acquaintances, some being introduced in garden culture; but many of them were strangers. Among them familiar in genera, but not in variety were three species of Gentian; the beautiful blue variety G. Cruenta; several species of Campanula, including exceedingly beautiful species of C. Rotundifolia; three varieties of Orchis; several varieties



of Galium, a most beautiful variety of Mentha. The rocks were covered with several varieties of Sedum, among them a brilliant crimson variety, which for miles before our approach to Splugen had covered many a rock with its brilliant glory. But what perhaps interested me more than all else, the ground was absolutely covered with beds of Forget-Me-Nots. Whether or not it be true that there are sermons in stones, there was certainly a voice in this tiny favorite, which spoke to me a stranger in a strange land, standing alone in this far-off Alpine Valley under the shadow of an old feudal castle, in tones more elegant than I have often heard from pulpit or rostrums; and I am sure that when memory grows dim with its recollections of this old ruin, the thrill of pleasure with which I greeted this insignificant little flower, will linger longest, and only end when mind and matter shall cease to exist.

I was but a short time in making my selection. I dare say that an equal, perhaps a much greater number remained untouched by me. I have before observed a profusion of flowers in Alpine regions, but nowhere else in such numberless varieties as here. \* \* \* I have seen other phases of nature to-day, so terribly grand, that it made me tremble to look at them.

ALEXANDER THOMPSON.

Splugen, July, 1867.

### OUR KANSAS LETTER---No. 6.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY A. M. BURNS, MANHATTAN, KANSAS.

ABOUT eleven years ago, on account of ill-health, I concluded to engage in grape growing, as it would give me the necessary amount of exercise. I always loved the *appearance* of the vine as well as its fruit, but I knew nothing about it; didn't know what a lateral meant, horizontal training, &c. A more ignorant man, I think, could not have been found on the face of the earth, about the culture of all kinds of small fruits. But I went to work with a determination to become "intelligent" upon the subject. I have tried to learn the cause of the disease in grape vines, but found the more I learned the less I knew.

We have had no mildew here, except on a few bunches last year, where large holes had been filled with bones and other enriching material in 1860, and on vines propagated from green wood, and planted 6 by 8 feet, among which weeds had grown; but the summer of 1866 was very wet here. We have had vines on which the foliage turned yellow, but not on vines treated as I intend in future to treat mine.

Now I don't want any person to suppose that I am trying to "establish a theory." I will merely relate facts, hoping that others may give their expe-

rience. In planting vines I formed the opinion that the ends of the roots being immature, should be cut off, so as to prevent any rootlets from growing from any kind of wood except that which is *perfectly* ripe, the vine then has a sound constitution to start with. The result of my brief experience is this, that vines propagated from sound bearing wood and properly root-pruned, and planted in moderately rich soil, have never shown signs of any yellow leaves, while those from immature wood and not root-pruned, and even some produced from sound wood, and planted as Mr. Bull recommends, would after one, two, three or five years, show the yellow, sickly dry up, and in most instances die. The most healthy vines I have, were root pruned within two or three inches of the collar. Now may not the planting of immature wood aid the mildew on the vines? The diseased man may linger for years, sometimes better than at others, and may not the cause of disease in the grape vine be planted with the root itself, that is the immature wood, and may it not lurk in the roots for years before it develops itself in the shape of mildew, &c.? I plant my vines 8 feet by 10 or 12, and about 4 inches deep, and prepare the ground about 12 to 16 inches; and such vines have grown healthy for nine or ten years, and produced fruit five or six years, but they were always closely root-pruned; but when the ground was deeply prepared and good vines planted without root-pruning, I have had some mildew.

Now, a man cannot shut his eyes against facts, but the experience of others may have been different, and I would be glad to hear from those who have had experience in planting different qualities of vines, whether the vines produced from good wood, and closely root-pruned and planted in soil, not stirred more than 16 inches, and not so severely stop-pruned every year have been subject to disease, and if so, whether the vines are as liable to disease as those planted in the usual way? The only vines I ever planted with all the roots that proved *very* healthy, were some Concords sent from the grounds of Bissell & Salter; but may not this be attributed to the nature of the soil at Rochester, which is not so rich as our soil, and may ripen its wood more perfectly? The Concord cannot be an exception, as I have planted all the roots of Concords produced from green wood by layering, and they all died, while I have root-pruned the same Concords, and they are now healthy looking vines. But I need not give all my experience in this way; it is enough to say that vines produced on my own (rich) soil, and root-pruned, have always given satisfaction, whether produced from green or ripe layers, while the reverse is the fact with those not root-pruned.

I intend to continue my experiments by planting deep and shallow, root-pruning, and without root-

pruning. I think every person should do the same. I am letting some of the hardy vines run wild, and planting them so as to run over small tree tops, and only regret that I did not commence this sooner.

A good vine cannot be produced for five or eight cents each, even by the thousand in this region; if it can, I admit that it is beyond my comprehension. I see grape vines advertised for four cents each by the quantity. What does this mean? The advertisement is in a paper that is noted for denouncing "humbugs," and it is published on the same street with the office of the advertiser. The people want light upon this subject, will not some of the eastern propagators give them the information. I sold this spring the same variety by the hundred for 20 cents each; now I must be an extortioner, or the vines are sold by the agent for less than they are worth, or else the advertiser is selling poor roots, which is far worse than taking money without giving any vines, as I honestly believe that the man who propagates poor vines, and sends them out to the world, is doing a great injury. He may not think so, but that does not alter the case. I have in my experiments dug up over 600 plants for examination within the last ten years, at every stage of growth (more than was perhaps necessary,) and have carefully observed the growing plants, and I cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that the presence of yellow leaves on vines in suitable soil properly prepared is caused by planting an inferior quality of vines, and as everything must have a first cause, it may be that all the diseases which afflict the vine are originally caused by planting a poor quality of vines, or if the vines are of a good quality, then the soil cannot be adapted to the vine, which would create disease, or impair the vigor of the vine, and prepare it for the reception of the disease to which it is liable.

My experience is limited, but I cannot otherwise than believe that our vines are planted in some instances too deep, and very often too close, and that it is an unmerciful act to commit such mayhem upon the vine in the fall or winter pruning. If the tops must be taken off, then cut away an equal quantity of wood from the root, as I have also formed the opinion that when a portion of the root dies, as it must when a portion of the tops are severed, that the decaying wood of the root must communicate disease or weaken the constitutional vigor of the vine which is a degree onward towards the commencement of the yellow leaf. In this belief I may be wrong, and I would like to hear from those who think otherwise.

May not the mildew and all other diseases to which the vine is subject, be attributed to the want of vigor in young plants, and when conditions are unfavorable during certain years, it is shown,

although it cannot be seen for years. I had read that good roots could be propagated from green wood of the same season's growth, and in 1858 layered Clinton vines and produced roots both from the wood of 1857 and 1858, which were planted in 1859. Every year that it is excessively wet, the foliage of the vines propagated from the green wood, show the "yellow," notwithstanding all looked about the same size, and were planted alternately in rows with the same care, while the vines from old wood are always healthy-looking. They originally numbered about thirty, but some of the green wood vines have died. The yellow leaved vines did not show their golden hue until the second year, then for several years afterwards there could be seen no difference in the verdancy of the leaves. The difference was so marked in the appearance of the leaves that I have often been asked the cause.

'Now, I believe it is admitted that a proportion of the root dies whenever a portion of the cane is cut off; the root must then decay. Will not this decaying portion communicate disease to the vine, or to a certain extent injure the vigor of the vine, which may, many years afterwards, in unfavorable seasons, result in mildew, &c.; whereas, if the vine having a sound constitution had been properly root-pruned when top-pruned, so that the terminal of the roots could have calloused and sent out vigorous rootlets, might it not have escaped the mildew or yellow leaf? I must confess that I have not had an opportunity to investigate and form an opinion from experimental knowledge, yet some of your readers may.

The valley of the Big Blue River which unites with the Kansas River at Manhattan, is noted for the thickets of wild fruit and summer grapes. In clearing some ground, and cutting timber on the bottom land, large grape vines have been severed from the roots, and suckers afterwards have grown. Many of these young vines coming from the collar of the vine in wet seasons, have also shown yellow leaves, while the vines rambling at pleasure on the ground over bushes and tall tree tops, present the natural green color, although some are but a few feet from the yellow-leaved vines, while others are rods and miles distant. Was it then the decaying roots of the vine that weakened the strength that caused these yellow canes to show the yellow leaf? I know different men attribute mildew and rot to different causes, but the query in my mind is whether mildew attacks a perfectly healthy vine in suitable soil. Will cultivators whose observations are different answer?

THE cotton crop of Alabama for 1866, as near as can be ascertained, was 329,415 bales.

A Herkimer county, N. Y., dairyman estimates that 45 cows require 100 tons of hay to winter them through.

## KERRY CATTLE.

THE "Prize Essay" of the late R. C. Kendall, on Kerry cattle, published in the September number of *THE FARMER*, is quite interesting, but I think he has confounded two very different breeds. Authors agree that there were originally two stocks of untracable antiquity in Ireland, namely; the Longhorn, which occupied the lower, and more fertile parts of the country, and the race of which the Kerry may be taken as the type, which occupied the mountainous districts. The former is still kept on the lowland farms of the county of Kerry, and hence has sometimes been called the Kerry breed, though the latter is of very different character. The true Kerry is much smaller than the Longhorn, and in its principal features corresponds to the mountain cattle of Scotland and Wales. Few breeds present a wider contrast than the genuine Kerry and Longhorn.

The "hind quarters" of beef, weighing "each over 300 pounds," which Mr. K. saw in Dublin market, were too big by half to come from pure Kerry cattle, and his cow which was "cut up for beef" on ship-board, and whose "dressed carcass weighed a trifle short of 1,050 pounds," was about twice the size of a true Kerry, unless the word "trifle" covers a great deficiency in the actual weight.

The Kerry cow is a great milker for her size, and her milk is very rich. Substitute *milk* for "beef," as the "principal requirement," and I should prefer the Kerry cattle as best "suited to the extreme cold of northern winters," with coarse food and ordinary shelter. I speak from observation of the breed in its native region, and the results attending animals which I purchased there and sent to this country. The Keries fatten easily and make very fine beef; but if beef was the main object, I should prefer the West Highland breed of Scotland in the circumstances you specify.

If the author of the essay on Galloway cattle had followed copy a little more closely, he would have seen that the language which he quotes from Mr. Stephenson Scott, never appeared in "Skinner's American Farmer, but in the Report of the Commissioner of Patents for 1844; also that Mr. Snell's two-year old bull whose weight is given, was not imported, but bred by Mr. S.

SANFORD HOWARD.

Lansing, Mich., Aug. 31, 1857.

We thank our correspondent "S. H." for his corrections. At the time we inserted the late R. C. Kendall's essay, we were under the impression that the Keries were much smaller animals than represented by the writer. We have seen large numbers of Keries, but in all cases they were small, thick-set, short animals, and in our opinion would not dress over 500 pounds, if that.—EDS.

## AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY HORACE TRAYER.

STATISTICAL information is valuable and interesting to the farmers, providing it is reliable; for in that case, he is aware that he obtains facts instead of opinions or mere theories. But when he finds the grossest errors in the statistics of our leading authorities, his confidence in the accuracy of statistical tables is so weakened, that he will be induced to question the most accurate. These thoughts were suggested by perusing the report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture for 1863, wherein statistics are given of the agricultural products of Worcester County and the county of Ayr in Scotland, designed to show the superior productiveness of the latter, or the better husbandry of the Scottish farmer. But such gross errors occur in that table that they ought not to remain unnoticed. We shall refer but to a few items, and those relating to the products of our own county. One hundred and seventy-two bushels of turnips are set down as the extent of that very common crop in the great county of Worcester. We know turnips are not as extensively raised here as in some sections; yet most farmers grow a few every year, while many plant them quite extensively. Two small farmers in our own neighborhood grow more than five hundred bushels annually. We have no means of knowing the exact number of bushels grown in the county, but are certain if we substitute hundreds for units (as set down in that table,) we shall obtain nearer the truth.

Potatoes are set down at nine thousand four hundred and thirty-nine bushels as the product of the county. They are a favorite crop with many farmers in this county. Many annually raise twelve, fifteen hundred, or two thousand bushels, where all grow a few bushels for market, besides supplying their own wants. Instead of estimating this crop by thousands of bushels, it could safely be numbered by hundreds of thousands. We need make no further extracts to convince every one at all familiar with the agricultural resources of this county, of the inaccuracies of these statistics. It may be said that the secretary is not answerable for these errors, as they are the offspring of an agricultural oration; but the public will hold him answerable for such palpable errors in a document of his own compilation, designed as a standard authority for agricultural information. We know it is often difficult to obtain accuracy upon such matters, and slight errors should be overlooked; but such wild statements can plead no apology. Men whose office is to advance the agricultural interest, or aid and instruct the farmer, should have more care in the accuracy of their statements, and

farmers would have more confidence in their teachings. Farmers have been so often disappointed in following the instructions of amateurs and dreamers, it is no marvel that they suspect all book knowledge and cling to old practices.

#### NOTES FROM CANADA.

EDS. AMERICAN FARMER:—From what I have seen of the country, I find there is great difficulty in arriving at a correct estimate of the yield of the crops in Canada West. The yield of hay has been good, and it has been well saved. The crop of fall wheat has turned out a larger yield than for many years past, and owing to the farmers in the older sections of the country having depended almost entirely upon the Mediterranean and midge-proof varieties, the little yellow fly seems to have been headed off, as it did not put in an appearance to any extent in those sections. But the quality of the wheats now grown is decidedly inferior to the old standard sorts, and the yield by no means equal to what they gave before the midge devastated the crop. In the more northerly and westerly counties, where the midge had not put in an appearance, and the fine Soule and Blue Stem wheats had been sown, their crops promised abundantly, but in many places the little yellow fly put in an appearance for the first time, and made sad havoc with the wheat crop, taking from a third to the whole of the wheat, leaving only the straw to pay for cutting.

As regards the crop of spring wheat, I think it is considerably below an average; although the great breadth of land sown will make up in a measure, for the deficiency. The straw is very short, and the wheat does not look as plump and good as last year's. The midge is also in the spring wheat, and will take a heavy toll out of it. Barley is a good crop, but little of it was grown. Oats look thick on the ground, and promise well. Peas below an average. Of potatoes, roots, &c., there will be an abundance. The crops vary in different sections; those on light lands appearing to the most advantage, while on clays they are very short and thin. The weather for harvesting operations has been everything that could be desired. Fruit promises a large yield, the apples and peach trees being loaded with fruit. Pasturage has been abundant, and as we have much reduced the number of head of horned stock within the last two years, those left are in splendid condition. Sheep prove the next profitable stock to the farmer, and the Legislature having at last given them protection against dogs by a special act, they can now be kept even in cities and towns without risk of loss.

MAC.

#### CRITICISM ON A PRIZE ESSAY.

"Much has been said in favor of movable frames; but the trifling benefit that is derived from their use, is no adequate compensation for their expense. They often prove entirely useless in consequence of the bees fastening them to the sides of the hive, building comb crosswise of them," &c.

The writer "N. M. C.," probably if he ever used the movable comb hives, could not have had them made and used, or managed aright; or else he or any other *practical* bee keeper never would have discarded the frames on the pretext above named. I must say but little on the movable comb principle, or the reader will think I am a patent right man, which I am not.

"Next in importance is to see that the entrance to every hive is so small that only two or three bees can pass at a time, and see to it that they are kept so until after orchards blossom."

After twenty years experience I would say, give strong stocks working room at all times. It is only the weak that want the entrance contracted. Many stock want the whole entrance before the apple tree blossoms, while working on the willows, cotton wood, poplar, sap of trees, rye flour, &c.

"The principles of management during the swarming season which will result in the best success must be based on the natural instincts of the bees. Many manipulations, artificial swarming, &c., may be pleasing and interesting to the curious, but most practical apiarists now discard all such interference, and let the bees observe their natural habits in these matters."

How are bee keepers having a few stocks to manage them? Watch them during the season and then possibly lose a portion by flight to the woods, or how am I to manage, having from three to six hundred stocks of Italian bees in one apiary to keep them pure and from breeding in and in, and to keep the swarms separate? Am I to let them swarm themselves to death, or not swarm at all "as their base of natural instinct leads?" Six years ago, when I had one hundred and sixty-three stocks swarming naturally I had thirteen swarms on one tree, or united in one grand swarm. Was it artificial work to have such a pile of bees, or should I let them remain on their base of natural instincts?—*J. M. M., St. Charles, Ill.*

THE first exhibition of the American Poultry Society will be held in the city of New York on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Thanksgiving week, at which time liberal premiums will be offered.

Mr. Burdett Loomis, of Connecticut, has purchased and imported a Cotswold buck from the flock of Robert Garne, Northeast, England, at a cost of over \$1,000.

The great 7,000 pounds Canada cheese which was exhibited last fall, has recently been tested and proved to be uniform in color, and of excellent flavor.

**HOPS.**

THE season for hops has been favorable for picking, the crop is mostly harvested, and although few have yet baled and sent their crop to market, an approximate estimate can now be made of the yield. In some places it has been unusually large; in some whole counties it has been very much injured by vermin. Here and there in sections most affected with the aphid, an enterprising planter has saved his crop by a simple application of lime, or plaster, or both—while all the yards about him were suffered to be eaten up while growing. Probably all knew of the remedy, but were not prepared beforehand with the material, were too busy to hunt it up after the insect appeared on their vines, and consequently in place of a fine crop of fancy hops, have a small yield of blackened, fourth rate quality. The sulphate of lime, (gypsum,) in the plaster, absorbs ammonia from the atmosphere, and proves a most excellent fertilizer, strengthening healthy plants and curing diseased ones, besides destroying the insects which prey upon them. It should be applied early in July. Frequently, indeed usually, one application is sufficient; but, if after a few weeks the insect should appear again, it is best to resort to a second dusting. Shake it well among the leaves, as it should settle upon every part of the leaf and stem of the entire plant. This can easily be done in the stringed yards. The trouble is much greater in poled yards, but the dusting is necessary.

Since the picking season commenced, speculators have been busy securing hops on contract at from 50c to 65c. per lb. The crop in this State is less than half its usual yield per acre. The number of acres picked is greater than heretofore, and there are a great many new yards set out, to come into bearing next season.

The *Utica Herald* says "the hops turned black, and were a failure throughout the valley from Utica to Bridgewater." It is the same in most parts of Otsego and Madison counties. Occasionally a few yards produce hops of a superior quality while the yield is small. 1,000 lbs. per acre is an average yield. I think the crop in this State will fall short of 500 lbs. per acre. In the northern part of this State, where there was a total failure two or three years since, hops are this year of good quality. Monroe county has some stringed yards that are of fancy quality and large yield.

A letter from Sauk county, Wis., August 18th, says: "The yield will be very large. There will be about 2,560 acres to be picked this year, in this county alone. It is estimated low at \$1,500,000 for the county. Buyers offer to contract them at 40c. They are held at 50c. The yards on stakes and twine look beautifully. The wheat crop is unusually large, and of the finest quality."

The vermin have injured the hops in Ohio and Michigan somewhat, but have not appeared in Wisconsin, Iowa, or the other Western States. Kansas and Missouri are beginning to grow hops. They are safe in doing so. There is no danger of the market being overstocked. There is a foreign demand for all we can spare, at a higher figure than wool will bring at this time.

The recent discovery that hop vines can be profitably worked up into coarse cloth, is likely to add to the value of this crop. From four to eight tons of vines are produced annually per acre, which have usually been burned on the field, or put into manure piles, and it is now believed that the vines will pay for the whole expense of raising the crop, and by so much increase the already enormous profits of the hop planter. As the textile fiber of the vines must be matured before using, it will be necessary to pick the crop as usual without cutting the stems before the last of September.

F. W. COLLINS.

**SORCHUM---No. 4.**

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "F." READINGTON, N. J.

**STRIPPING, CUTTING, MANUFACTURING, &c.**

WHEN the cane is sufficiently ripe to gather, (which is when the heads are well browned,) it should be first stripped. As this is at best, a tedious job, it is necessary to use the best means to accomplish it. Several inventions have been patented, all of which claim to be the best instrument known to do it, but none of them have come into general use. The best way I know of, and the one I practice myself, is to take a long, strait, thin, wooden blade, and strip down one side of a stalk at a time. In this way it can be stripped quite rapidly.

After the cane has been stripped two or three days, it should be gathered. First remove the tops by cutting off at the upper joint with a corn knife, and the stalks should then be cut at the lower joint, and laid in bunches of a size convenient to handle, with the butts all one way. The bunches should be bound with two bands, (one at each end,) and be piled in heaps that they may be covered up in case of frost.

After the seed heads have lain long enough to ripen up, they should be gathered and laid in handfuls to dry. If they can be put in a dry and secure place, it will be best to leave them until thoroughly dried before threshing; otherwise thresh them and spread the seed thinly over a floor to dry. The seed is threshed by running the tops through a threshing machine, out of which the concave has been taken. Mixed with oats and corn, and ground it makes excellent horse feed. In some cases farm

ers who raise a small quantity of cane, have machinery of their own, and manufacture their own sirup. The better way, however, is to have it done where it is made a regular business, as small establishments cannot afford all the conveniences, and withal cannot be carried on as successfully as larger ones. Or, a number of farmers might combine, and procure a set of portable machinery of large capacity, and hiring a competent superintendent, might have their sirup manufactured each on his own farm, and have it done cheaper than for each one to do his own. As whoever is about to engage in the manufacture will most likely visit establishments already in operation, for the purpose of learning the minutiae of the business, it is unnecessary to describe the process here.

### CROPS IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER BY E. THAYER, MASS.

It is many years since the hay crop has been so abundant in this section, and the favorable weather in the early part of July enabled farmers to secure it in fine condition, excepting those who delayed their haying till the last of the month. Since then the almost constant rains have rendered it impossible to get hay in an undamaged state, and many acres of low meadow ground have become so overflowed with water that the owners have had to abandon all hopes of securing the crops for this year. But on the whole, our farmers can congratulate themselves with an ample supply of winter fodder mostly secured in good condition; while the luxuriant growth of aftermath will obviate the necessity of early foddering, which will preserve the whole for winter use.

Little wheat is grown in this section; the rye crop was unusually heavy both in straw and grain. Early sown oats have filled well, although the straw was rather light, but later sowings, as is usually the case, were less productive. Corn promises finely, notwithstanding late planting; and nothing can now prevent a good crop, unless some late fields should be injured by untimely frosts. Early potatoes produced abundantly, which encouraged farmers to hope for more than an average yield of this useful esculent; but the subsequent appearance of the rot has disappointed their hopes. Many fields in low ground are ruined beyond hope, and will not produce the value of the seed in sound potatoes. But all kinds of vegetables were never more promising as the weather has been favorable to the growth and maturity of most cultivated crops except the potato.

Would that we could speak as encouragingly of the fruit prospects. Apples, with the exception of occasional tree, will prove a failure. The full bloom

gave promise of fully an average crop; but the apples have continued to drop till but few remain. Must we give up this valuable fruit, or can we find a remedy for its failure? Pears and peaches promise to give fully an average crop. Of grapes, I think there will be less than last year. Of all the smaller fruits and berries there has been no lack. Strawberries were uncommonly abundant; yet prices for good fruit were well sustained. With the present prospects of abundant harvests for nearly every variety of cultivated crops, and a constantly increasing demand for every product of the soil, farmers may well feel encouraged with their present condition, and look forward to the future with still brighter hopes.

### ENGLISH HOP GARDENS.

*Maldstone.*—If the weather continues warm and fine for two or three weeks longer we may have the pleasure of seeing some very good samples, but where they have been struck with blight we must give them up entirely.

*Benenden.*—The hops are coming out fairly. There is no one who will not have a few.

*Cranbrook.*—On some grounds there is a probability of growing from 15 to 18 cwt. per acre, in a portion of the grounds. There are other plantations that have been so exceedingly punished that they cannot struggle out of the blight, and this check in the general production will very materially decrease the aggregate yield. With a continuation of favorable weather the hops will soon obtain condition and quality, and we should think that an average growth of from 6 to 8 cwt. per acre in this parish will not be far wide of the mark.

*Edenbridge.*—We have a decided improvement in some grounds, in others we still have vermin.

*Farningham.*—Some of the grounds have considerably improved, and if blessed with suitable weather the growth will be a very fair one.

*Lenham.*—Our best grounds are considerably improved, and the hops are coming out well.

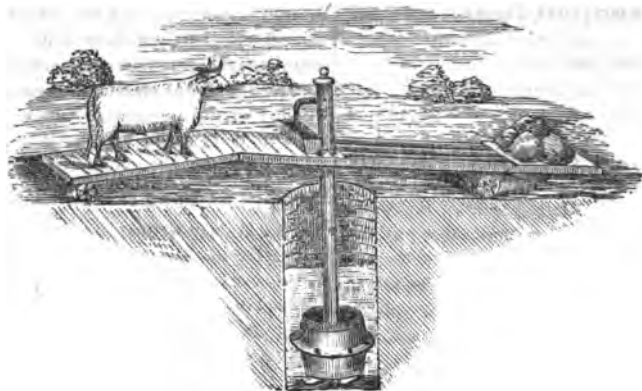
*Frittenden.*—A few of the best grounds have slightly improved this week, while others are quite past recovery.

*Halstead.*—Owing to the late genial weather, and diminution of vermin, the bine is strengthened, and has a much more healthy appearance.

*Horton Kirby.*—Our plantations are improving, and there is still some hope of a fair crop in some grounds.

*Kemsing.*—But little will be done in our hops this season. The plantations have a gloomy appearance.

*Orpington and the Crays.*—There is a probability that some planters will be very fortunate in their growth.—*Correspondence of the London Standard* August 20.



### PATRIC'S STOCK PUMP.

Among the many inventions for saving labor, none are creating a greater interest where they have been introduced than the Patric Stock Pump illustrated above. Farmers have for a long time desired some means by which animals could help themselves to water from wells, without care or labor. By this invention, that desire is fully attained. When the animal steps upon a platform the water commences to flow without noise or any perceptible movement excepting the gradual depression of the platform.

Its superior merits are apparent to all who have seen the other devices for watering stock. The windmill and platform pumps arranged with gearing, pulleys, chains, ropes, buckets, &c., have great defects which in this are completely avoided, and having no perceptible friction or waste of power, renders it the most perfect and durable pump ever made. This invention can very much increase the value of farms destitute or having a scanty supply of good water. The benefit to stock, especially milch cows, of always having a supply of pure water is very obvious, and is as necessary as a full supply of good food. When watered but once or twice a day they will often drink so much as to affect the circulation and contract the milk vein, depriving the owner of his rightful supply of milk.

The public can have the most perfect assurance that this pump has proved a complete success, and we agree with the Report of the Orleans County Agricultural Fair "that it is the best agricultural pump ever put into a well." For further particulars address H. Lawton, P. O. Box 599, Rochester, N. Y., Sole Proprietor of the Patent Right for the United States.

**DIEHL WHEAT IN CANADA.**—A correspondent of *The Country Gentleman*, writes, Aug. 31st, as follows:

"Having noted several communications in your excellent paper referring to the productiveness and merits of the Diehl wheat, I will contribute my experience with this superior variety. On the 12th and 16th days of September, 1866, I sowed nine acres, the produce of which I have just threshed and cleaned, and I have three hundred and eighty-eight bushels of the very best sample—this yield being over 43 bushels per acre, and weighing 62 1-2 lbs. per bushel, which places the Diehl wheat, in my estimation beyond any other."

So far as our observation extends in Western New York, and in parts of the West, the Diehl wheat has given satisfaction. The yield has been good, the grain plump, and commands an extra price for flouring. It ripens ten days in advance of the appearance of the insect enemy. We have some of this wheat in our office which was raised in Monroe county, sown in a very wet season, which has threshed over 30 bushels per acre. We should be glad to hear from our readers who have tried this variety. Care should be taken to procure good seed

as unprincipled persons are already selling a spurious article.—EDS.

**HOPS.**—Although the crop is so generally defective in quantity and quality, still there appears to be here and there exceptions. We last week noticed the fact that the yield upon the field of Mr. C. Oxner, in this village, is fully equal to an average of years; yet we learn that Mr. A. Evans, whose field is but a short distance from that of Mr. Oxner, will get only about half a crop. Perhaps one fact will tend to account for this difference, though we do not know how it will compare in other places. It is, that Mr. Evans has cultivated his hops upon the old style, upright poles, while Mr. Oxner has employed the new fashioned horizontal plan. Perhaps it will be well for hop growers to compare notes on this point.—*Fayetteville, (N. Y.) Weekly Recorder*.

It is to be hoped that the day is near at hand when a good horticultural and agricultural library will be deemed as important to farmers and fruit growers as one on theology to the divinity student



**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Management of Sick Animals.**

A correspondent of *The Germantown Telegraph* is of the opinion that more farm stock is lost or injured by hasty and ill-advised attempts to counteract real or supposed ailments, than by a failure to administer anything for the purpose of cure. He says: When your animal has a fever, all stimulating articles are to be avoided. Bleeding to reduce the circulation, purging for removing irritating substances from the bowels, cooling drinks to allay thirst and supply decreased secretions; rest and quiet to tone down the system, are what common sense would seem to dictate, and what nature would seem to require. This is safer than to cram the animal with a multiplicity of cures, without regard to anything except the fact that something is the matter. We trust farmers and owners of animals will heed the admonition here given.

**Preserving Seed Corn.**

As the season is near at hand for farmers to lay away their seed corn, *The Prairie Farmer* gives the following suggestions from a farmer in Wisconsin:—As soon as the largest ears become hardened or glazed, though the stalk may be quite green and the husk on the ear somewhat green, select the largest and ripest ears, and on the same day divest the corn of all the husk, save as much as will suspend it. Braid the ears in bunches of ten or twelve, and suspend them in some dry place, or if the atmosphere be damp, hang the bunches around the wall of the kitchen for three or four weeks at least. It may hang either in the kitchen or any dry, airy place, where neither damp nor rain will get to it, until planting time. All such seed will grow in any land not flooded with water.

**Calves Brought up by Hand.**

A member of an English Farmer's Club makes a speciality of rearing calves, and has read a paper before that association describing his experience. He has been in the habit of procuring the calves dropped on the farm of a neighbor, and with only four cows of his own, raised 50 in 1864, 55 in 1865, and in 1866, 55 were weaned, but 3 have been lost by mismanagement. He takes the calves from about the first of March, when ten days old, paying 30 shillings (\$7.50 in gold) each for them. They have for the first three or four days three or four quarts of milk at a meal; then gradually some food in the shape of gruel is added, and by degrees water is substituted for milk. Mixing oil-cake with gruel is the secret of success. I use half oil-cake the best I can buy. Take a large bucket, capable of holding six gallons, put into it two gallons of scalding water; then add 7 pounds of linseed cake, finely ground. Stir the oil-cake and water well together, adding two gallons of hay tea. The hay tea is made by pouring scalding water in the morning on good sweet hay, in a tub, the tea standing covered till night, and having 7 pounds of meal (wheat, barley and beans mixed) stirred into a tubful before use. The same hay will bear a second infusion during the night, for next morning. Two quarts per head, with an equal amount

of cold water, is enough for a feed. As soon as they can eat, crushed corn, sweet hay, and roots, are placed within reach: vetches as soon as ready, and mangolds, of which a supply should always be stored if practicable. The calves live in a cool, well ventilated house, are kept very clean and quiet, supplied with fresh water daily, and the manure frequently removed.

**Turnips as Food for Animals.**

J. L. Hersey writes *The Massachusetts Plowman* that among farmers there are various views and opinions as to the value of turnips as food for cattle and hogs; and that different results have been obtained by different farmers in their experiments, is a fact very well authenticated. The difference is not in the turnips; that is acknowledged; neither is it all in the animal; but I think the turning point on which all depends is the manner of preparing as food. I have seen a farmer stuff his animals to repletion one day, and to-morrow allow them to go hungry and thirsty also; animals managed thus cannot thrive on the best keeping in the country. There is no one thing that tends more to keep animals in a thriving condition than regularity in feeding, and many farmers propound the question, "are turnips of any value as food for hogs?" and your old fossil farmer will reply, "they are good for nothing for any of my critters—for I fed out as many as forty bushels to a yoke of oxen, and I couldn't see they gained one mite." Another farmer will say, "I consider turnips an excellent feed to commence fattening animals on. I tried a couple of cows last fall, and never saw animals fat faster." And another fed them to his pigs, and says—"They did first rate, and the food was prepared in this way; my boiler, which is a portable one, out of doors, holds about two bushels. The turnips are washed clean and then boiled till soft; then take them out and mix them with corn meal ground, cob and all, and the farmer who will try it and fall of seeing his pigs thrive, I wish him to communicate the facts through the pages of *The Plowman*. I think cows fed on them furnished in the same way would thrive well.

**Fouls in the Feet of Sheep.**

F. L. Upham & Sons, of Vermont, gives the following remedies in a late number of *The Ohio Farmer*:—Fouls, if no remedy is applied, usually terminates in foot rot. For fouls, some turpentine or tar applied is sufficient. When attacked with foot rot the hoof should be trimmed and all the affected part cut away and thoroughly cleaned, even to the taking away of all the shell of the hoof, if necessary, and blue vitriol dissolved in vinegar, brought to the boiling point, and thoroughly administered to the foot; or a very convenient remedy is one part blue vitriol and one part white lead mixed with linseed oil, applied once in three or four days, or until a cure is effected. Vitriol finely pulverized. We have had no foot rot in our flock of Improved Merino sheep up to this date and none in any sheep we previously have had for over twenty years. We have guarded against it by the utmost vigilance and care, and by a thorough examination of our flock twice a year.

**The Mange.**

Is a cutaneous disease, and contagious. If in a large herd, a single animal is attacked, it is seldom that any escape. The diseased cattle should be removed to some distant stable at once, where there can be no possible communication with the others.

The symptoms are a dry dandruff or scurf about the roots of the hair, attended with severe itching and inflammation, inducing a violent rubbing. It is first seen about the tail, and thence spreads in every direction.

The causes are various. Over-feeding or under feeding will produce it. A sudden change from the lowest diet to the richest will bring it on in its worst form. Filthy stables, and want of cleanliness about the animals themselves will produce it, but not so readily as improper feeding. The treatment to effect a cure is simple. Prepare an ointment of three gills of spirits of turpentine, three-fourths of a pound of flour of sulphur, and oil enough to reduce the whole to a thin plastic unguent. Rub this in gently with the hand or a soft brush—the hand is best, and there is no danger in doing it. Whale oil is disagreeable to use on account of its smell, and linseed oil is of too drying a nature. The best oil perhaps, would be new butter before being salted; this would be sweet, soft, and penetrating. This mixture could be kept in a light vessel for years, and would prove an excellent remedy for the "mange" as well as for several other cutaneous and contagious diseases to which cattle are subject.—*New England Farmer.*

**Ox Yoke.**

A correspondent of *The Mirror and Farmer*, who has been down South, says that during the war large quantities of cotton were hauled by ox teams from Texas to Mexico. Both Texan and Spanish teamsters were employed. The Spanish oxen were yoked by the head; the Texan by the neck, or in our usual style. Working thus together, the superiority of the head gear was so manifest, that it was generally adopted by the American teamsters. He wishes that a few yoke of steers might be trained to "walk Spanish," and be exhibited at our fairs.

**Milk Sickness.**

An Illinois farmer, in a note to the New York Farmers' Club, says he has never known a case of the dreaded milk sickness, where the animals had plenty of pure water. He also says that since he hauled sand and gravel on his walks and paths the chicken cholera has entirely disappeared from his place.

**Hops in Michigan.**

*The True Northerner* says the hop crop in Van Buren county is large in quantity and fine in quality, and that the county will this year produce twice the amount ever before raised. The Coldwater, Branch County, *Sentinel*, says:—"Hop growers are busy picking the crop, and are anticipating about half of an average yield. Old yards seem to withstand the ravages of the hop louse better than new yards, and those planted on high ground better than those on low." The Flint *Citizen* thinks the crop in Genesee county will not be more than one-fourth a full one.—*Western Rural.*

**Seeding Wheat.**

The advantages of drilling over broadcast sowing for wheat says *The Practical Farmer*, in the Middle States, has been too long satisfactorily determined, to need any further comment. The saving of seed, the regularity and evenness of depth at which the grain is deposited, the security against the upheavings of severe winters, the admission of a freer circulation of air—all perhaps have contributed to give drilling an advantage in harvest time of several bushels per acre over the other mode. Where wheat is to be drilled, the harrowing and pulverization of the soil of course precede instead of follow the seeding; and we have to urge, not only for the sake of the wheat, but for the better starting of the grass, the importance of two plowings. Where land is laid down to grass, as it is in this section, and to so remain for several years, the repeated exposure of fresh surfaces of soil to the fertilizing gases of the atmosphere, the thorough mixing of soil and subsoil, the complete pulverizing of their particles so as to increase their power of absorption, are all *manurial* in their effects, and must be performed, if at all, during the two years of the ordinary rotation. The oftener and more thoroughly they are done during this period, the better for the subsequent more permanent pastures. Top-dressing then will *keep up* vigor and fertility.

**Beef Cattle Should be Fat.**

Farmers sell too many of their beef cattle when they are in merely ordinary beef condition. In doing this there is a twofold loss that but few consider. The animal yields a less number of pounds, and the meat brings a lower price. Between ordinary beef and really choice fat beef, there is always a difference of two or three cents per pound, and this difference, when added to the whole number of pounds when the animal is in the best condition, will be found to be no mean amount. Nothing pays better than the few bushels of grain or the few days upon good June grass, that puts the finishing touch upon what is generally denominated a good beef animal. Those of our readers who have followed this often repeated advice in our live stock market reports, are witnesses to its soundness. Do not be in a hurry to market under ordinary circumstances, until cattle are really fat. The same applies to all other market animals.—*Ex.*

**Washington's Corn Crib.**

At a recent meeting of the Farmers' Club, New York city, a farmer from New Jersey described a corn crib that was constructed under the supervision of General Washington, which, he said, had always been "rat proof," and there had never been but one mouse in it. The crib was placed on high posts that were set several feet in the ground, with tin or sheet iron nailed around the posts at the upper ends, so that mice and rats could not climb the posts. Mr. Crane, of New Jersey, stated that he had such a crib, and it had kept the grain well every year for more than twenty years, and had been both rat and mouse proof.

**Potatoes.**

Wood ashes is one of the most valuable of manure in the culture of the potato.

## Horticultural.

### TOO GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

HOPES is the parent of enterprise: without it, few would deviate from the old and beaten path of certainty. Impelled by it, the tiller of the earth adopts new methods, and undertakes the culture of new crops. When hope is large, it is very likely to lead to disappointments. We have noticed that most of those who engage in new branches of agriculture or horticulture, are apt to indulge in too great expectations, and are consequently disappointed in the results. Particularly is this the case with those who embark in *small fruit culture*. They read the papers, the horticultural papers, and in them learn that one has raised 800 bushels of strawberries upon an acre of ground, and realized therefrom \$1,000 to \$1,200. They also read that Knox, Parry, Purdy, Collins, and others, have from 30 to 100 acres in small fruits, and they begin to figure: 30 acres at \$1,200 per acre—\$36,000, from a single crop! Whew! they will go into strawberry raising at once, and get immensely rich in a few years. They consult authorities and find that it will require from 10,000 to 15,000 plants to set an acre of strawberries. They also consult authorities as to the best varieties, and find some dozen to twenty *best varieties*—largest, earliest, most productive, highest-flavored, &c. Well, they must have all the best varieties represented in their plantation, and so they find by careful figuring that it will require nearly \$100 to the acre to purchase the plants—a pretty large pile of greenbacks to purchase enough to plant 30 acres, but then consider what a return they will get from the first crop—\$36,000, from \$3,000! They will mortgage the farm, and go ahead!

But it requires quite a large outlay to prepare 30 acres of ordinary farming land properly for strawberries—a large outlay for manure, for plowing, subsoiling, draining, harrowing, &c. But they flatter themselves that *their* land will do without manure, as they grew a pretty good crop of corn upon it, and they have read somewhere, that land that will raise good corn, will answer for strawberries.

Planting time comes, the plants arrive by railroad, the boxes are opened; perhaps the plants are in good order, although some of them look rather small and feeble. The new beginner commences transplanting, and soon finds that his inexperienced laborers make slow progress, and he must have more help, or part of his plants will spoil before he gets them transplanted. But here he finds that he has made one slight mistake; he has not reserved cash enough to hire the requisite amount of help to transplant the vines in season, as they should be. However, he must hurry them in at some rate, and so the roots are stuck in the ground.

After a few days, in walking over his grounds, the novice in strawberry culture experiences his first disappointment; for he discovers numerous vacancies in his rows, and sundry withered plants. Those feeble plants which might have been saved by careful transplanting, are dead. Others have been destroyed by the

cut worm, and various causes, so that upon the whole, he is not pleased with the appearance of his new plantation. He further perceives that the grass and weeds are starting up thickly, all over his grounds, no vacancies in the weeds. Now, if he could give the weeds battle at once, it would be comparatively easy to subdue them; but he has other crops to attend to, and the weeds are left until they become deeply rooted, and then when he goes at them with cultivator and hoe, they are cut off, not up, and although it requires a great deal of labor to get over the plantation, the work is not half done, and the weeds are starting again vigorously.

By this time the enthusiasm of the novice in fruit culture, is pretty much gone, and his working capital gone too; but he has invested too much in the enterprise to abandon it now, and he must work away at it through the summer as best he may, and when the season closes, his plantation presents a sorry appearance. His vines look sickly, and have thrown out but few runners. The vacancies have enlarged, for his inexperienced hands in pulling up the deeply-rooted weeds, have also rooted out plants with them, and the weeds have not succumbed to his arduous labors. His vines certainly do not show a capacity for 300 bushels per acre the next season.

But his vexations and disappointments do not end with the first year. In spite of all the obstacles which they have encountered, his Wilsons and some other of the hardier varieties, make out to bear a small crop; but as they are scattered over a large area, it requires a greater number of pickers to gather them than it would otherwise, and he finds it difficult to get enough to gather them in good order, and as they are small, and in a bad condition when sent to market they have to be sold low.

When the season is over, and the results fully summed up, the hopeful man, who embarked in small fruit culture, with such high expectations, finds his actual returns less than 20 bushels per acre, and his cash receipts probably less than \$60 per acre instead of \$1,200, as his glowing anticipations had pictured, and his grand fortune of \$36,000 dwindled down to a pitiable \$1,800—not enough to pay for the original plants. Reader, have we not given a true history of more than one experience in strawberry culture?

The first great mistake of the class we have described, was in making their calculations on erroneous data. There have been those who have grown at the rate of 300 bushels of strawberries per acre, but they did not cultivate 30 acres of the fruit, and there have been those who have sold \$1,200 worth of strawberries from an acre, but they did not average that from a large plantation.

Those who have 30 acres of strawberries seldom realize an average of over 40 bushels per acre. In the "Fourth Annual Report of the West Jersey Fruit Growers' Association for 1866-7," reports are given from seven townships, containing 857 acres of strawberries in bearing, the aggregate yield of which was 24,943 bushels of fruit, at an average price of \$5.81 per bushel. This shows an average of less than 30 bushels per acre,

and as many of the growers probably had small plantations, yielding above the general average, there must have been many which averaged much below 80 bushels per acre.

There are those who succeed in fruit growing, and accumulate handsome fortunes in the business, and we shall endeavor in future numbers, to point out the way to success.

### MEETING OF THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE American Pomological Society have just concluded their Eleventh Biennial Session, which was held at St. Louis on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of September. The Society occupied two of the large halls in the Polytechnic Institute on Chestnut Street—one for the display of fruits and wines, the other for their session. Before noon on the first day, the exhibition hall which is a magnificent one, presented a busy and pleasant scene. This splendid room is the auditorium of the Institute; it is elaborately designed, stuccoed, and frescoed with a lofty ceiling, and from which depend superb chandeliers. The paintings and decorations, together with the symbolic figures, render it admirably adapted for the use to which it was devoted on this occasion. The figures so beautifully frescoed represented Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, and Education, and encircling the hall above were the figures of Ceres, Pomona, and Flora. The hall itself was well ventilated, amply lighted, and redolent with the perfumes of fruits and flowers.

The gathering of members was highly gratifying, our own State being well represented.

There were about two hundred varieties of pears on exhibition, 150 of which were shown by the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder. Among his collection was a plate of Endicott pears grown on the tree planted by John Endicott, the first Governor of Massachusetts Bay. The tree is now growing in Danvers. Endicott landed at Salem, in September, 1623, and the tree was probably planted soon after that time. It is consequently 239 years old.

The varieties of apples were not as numerous as the pears, but there were some fine samples in the hall.

We condense that portion of the proceedings which interests our readers from the faithful and excellent report of the *St. Louis Democrat*.

The session was opened by the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder calling the Society to order, and requesting the Vice Presidents in attendance to take seats upon the platform.

Hon. H. T. Mudd, of St. Louis, in behalf of the Missouri State Horticultural Society delivered an address of welcome, to which the President responded, after which business was commenced by President Wilder, who said that he regretted to announce the absence of the tried and faithful Secretary of the Society unavoidably detained by pressure of business, and that in consequence it would be necessary to appoint a Secretary, *pro tem*.

Dr. J. A. Warder, of Cincinnati, nominated T. R. Elliott, of Ohio, as Secretary. Mr. Elliott was elected and took his position at the Secretary's desk.

The delegations were then reported to the appropriate committee, after which the President announced the usual committees, and the order of proceedings entered into.

In the afternoon the President addressed the Society, and his remarks were listened to with the most profound attention. We regret that we have not the space to give them in full.

The conclusion of the President's address was followed by enthusiastic applause, after which the arrival of the Treasurer, Thomas P. James, Esq., was announced, and the Society listened to

#### THE TREASURER'S REPORT:

The detailed items show of receipts a total of .....	\$732.25
Of expenditure.....	466.92
Balance.....	\$265.93

The report was adopted.

The Committee on Election of Officers reported:—for President, Marshall P. Wilder; 29 Vice Presidents, one from each State; Treasurer, Thomas P. James; Secretary, F. R. Elliott.

#### NATIVE FRUITS.

The following committee on Native Fruits was announced: Messrs. Barry, Downing, Meehan, Warder, Husmann, F. K. Phoenix, of Illinois, and Nelson, of Indiana.

Mr. Thomas Meehan, of Pennsylvania, read an interesting essay on the disease of the pear.

On motion of Mr. Barry, the thanks of the Society were given to Mr. Meehan for his valuable address, and it was ordered published with the Society's transactions.

The discussion of the subject of the address was then entered upon.

Dr. Trimble hoped that some member from Western New York would communicate information of the disease. Till within a few years the disease had not been known in New Jersey, but they had now suffered much by it, and wanted a remedy pointed out.

Mr. Miller, of Missouri, had known instances in which the blight appeared to follow upon the hanging of pieces of iron upon the tree.

Dr. Claggett, of Missouri, had noticed that the thriftiest and fairest branches were most affected; that the affection began at the surface and the extremities, and he had arrested it by excision of the diseased parts. He had attributed this form of the disease to insects. An observing friend, who had much experience, had informed him that he had, he believed, found the mischievous insect—a moth or miller that works at night. In the case of certain dwarf pear trees which had died at the root, he attributed it to exhaustion through diversion of the sap to the quince.

Mr. Barry said he could only offer speculation upon this subject, and of this he was tired. He asked Mr. Meehan to state if he had ever detected the fungus on the diseased bark.

Mr. Meehan said he had, and with a microscope of but moderate power.

Mr. Barry said he knew of no remedy but excision. Mr. Husmann, of Hermann, Mo., had found that high cultivation, when followed by late and wet falls or

sudden frost, inflicted pear blight, and that by a lower cultivation the wood ripened earlier, the tree was hardier, and the disease was averted. His neighbors who applied a richer culture than he, were still afflicted with pear blight, while he was exempt.

Dr. Hull, of Alton, Ill., corroborated Mr. Meehan's views, as sustained by his own experience. He had found that inoculation communicated the disease when the sap circulation was active. His conclusion was that to arrest the growth at a certain period would prevent the blight, and this plan he had tried with success. He pruned the roots about the first of March, cutting them off to the depth of two feet, and in two years after repeated the pruning, but in a wider circle. He pruned when the tree became of bearing size, and in the case of both pear and quince roots. Over-cropping, however, had so much increased the productiveness that fatal exhaustion sometimes followed.

Mr. Meehan exhibited some pears, and some pear leaves with fungi—the leaves from Dr. Hall's orchard.

The President thought this appearance peculiar to this region.

Mr. Barry thought it but the common leaf blight, much aggravated.

Mr. Bronson spoke of a disease in which the tree retained its color, though the bark shrivelled; but the roots became black, and the tree died as if from want of water.

Mr. Stevens, of St. Louis county, said that in a case of this disease in a dwarf tree, he had saved the tree by hilling around it about two feet.

Mr. Elliott asked if any one had known a cure by use of copperas water?

Mr. Meehan replied that the prescriber of this cure had himself abandoned it.

Mr. Stevens inquired if any one had noticed the curculio attacking the pear? No answer.

The General Fruit Committee, Executive Committee, Committee on Foreign Fruits, on Synonyms and Rejected Fruits, and on the Revision of Catalogue, were then announced.

Discussion was resumed upon strawberries, and was prosecuted at much length.

Mr. Jordan had been so deeply interested in the subject, that he had this season traveled over two thousand miles to see strawberries in different sections.

Mr. Hoag said a friend of his had found the Agriculturist variety fail in sandy soil, and he himself had it fail in clay soil.

A member said that the originator of the Agriculturist himself regarded the Green Prolific as superior.

Dr. Edwards, Missouri, for two years had found no strawberry to compare with the Agriculturist in quality or productiveness unless the Green Prolific in productiveness. He referred to Dr. Morse to corroborate his statement. His trial of the Jucunda was limited. Saw it at Pittsburg, but it did not equal what he had since seen of the Green Prolific. But in various localities various results were found. He found the Triomphe de Gand not worth culture.

Mr. Quinette, Missouri, had seen the Agriculturist extensively, and it was everywhere inferior.

Mr. Parry had proved it excellent in his region, and experience with it was highly favorable.

The Jucunda strawberry was taken up.

Mr. Hooker said three years' trial with it had pleased him. It was of good size, fair, healthy, productive and second in quality.

Mr. Heaver.—Most have tried the Jucunda. It has merit in appearance, but in quality it is about as good as a turnip. He thought it an imposition.

Mr. Hoag had five years of Jucunda, and it had done well; brought a good price. It is not first in quality, but good; productive more than the Wilson, and a valuable market fruit.

Mr. — got more quarts from a Wilson than berries from a Jucunda.

Mr. Stevens, St. Louis, knew of gentlemen strongly in favor of it, and going largely into its cultivation.

Mr. Knox had tested it thoroughly and used no deception, and defied the most critical examination. It is uniformly large, has perfect beauty in form and color, and yields enormously. Seeing it on my grounds, said Mr. K., you ask, "How is it possible for vines to yield so much?" As for flavor—that is a matter of taste. Some like the Wilson, others the Triomphe de Gand, others tolerate neither. If to the gentleman it resembles the turnip, he either grows fine turnips, or has a fine taste for that vegetable. [Laughter.] The Jucunda may not be superior to others in flavor, yet it is fine. It carries well, and no strawberry that I grow carries better. As for pecuniary interest I'd have done better to have multiplied my own plants and sent none away. It brings a higher price transported to New York and Philadelphia than Wilson's Albany. It is not the latest nor the latest in ripening. Mr. K. said he was not its originator, but on finding its merits he proclaimed them.

After further and like discussion, Mr. Jordan said that the important lesson learned simply was that certain varieties succeed best in certain localities.

An essay on the Diseases of the Grape, was read by the author, William Saunders, of Washington, D. C., which we regret we cannot now copy.

Mr. Barry, of New York, moved the following, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That while regretting the absence from this meeting of Mr. James Vick, of Rochester, New York, we hereby tender to him the thanks of this Society for his faithful and efficient services as Secretary and reporter of our proceedings, rendered gratuitously during the past nine years.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be and are hereby tendered to Dr. Thomas P. James, of Philadelphia, who has served it so ably and so faithfully as Treasurer, without fee or reward, from its formation until this day.

The Secretary was requested to transmit the resolutions to the gentlemen named.

The following Committees were announced:

Committee on Wines, appointed by Dr. C. W. Spalding, President of the M. V. Grape Growers' Association:

Red Wines—Dr. J. A. Warder, of Cincinnati, chairman; Fred. Muench, of Missouri; George Ellwanger, of New York.

Catawba Wine, still and sparkling—William Griffith, of Pennsylvania, chairman; William Saunders, of Washington City; William Heaver, of Ohio.

Other wines of light color, comprising a number of new varieties—Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts, chairman; A. R. Whitney of Illinois; Prof. George Thurber, of New York; Robert Buist, of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Mr. Barry, the President was requested to appoint a committee to present rules for testing the merits of new varieties of fruits.

Mr. Lyon, of Michigan, by permission, read preamble and resolutions cogently setting forth the usefulness of forests, belts of timber, roadside trees, &c., in sheltering gardens and orchards, the disastrous inattention prevalent in this matter, and invoking legislation to secure the setting and safety of roadside trees, exempting belts of timber from taxation, &c.

On Mr. Lyon's motion, the document was referred to the Business Committee.

Mr. Charles Downing, of New York, as chairman of the Committee on New Native Fruits, handed in a report, which was not read, but ordered to be published with the Society's transactions. The report is a catalogue of the new varieties of fruits, and a brief description of each variety.

Mr. Phoenix, of Illinois, thought the report so important that it should be published at once.

A member remarked that in his judgment the officers of the society ought to be members of it, and, as gentlemen not members were yesterday elected Vice-Presidents, the persons who put them in nomination should make them members (by paying the fees.) [Applause.]

The President said that to preserve the Society's nationality it had always been found advisable to appoint known and distinguished pomologists in the various States and Territories, especially in the more distant, and the appointees had usually made themselves members. The President invited the Vice-Presidents in attendance to the platform, and several presented themselves—among them Dr. Edwards, of Missouri, who was greeted with cheers.

Mr. Barry, of committee, submitted a report relative to a revision of the catalogue of fruits.

From the Secretary (Geo. H. French) of the Tennessee Horticultural Society, a letter was read, stating that that society has just organized, too late to send delegates to this meeting, but will be represented at the Society's next meeting.

A stranger asked if old varieties of fruits from a distant section would be received for exhibition. He had some from Southwest Iowa.

The President answered him in the affirmative.

Mr. M. L. Dunlap, of Illinois, then delivered an interesting address on packing and marketing fruits. He was requested to furnish the paper for transactions.

Dr. Hull gave an account of his experience in shipping fruits. He believed only in picking and forwarding fruits when they were just about approaching maturity—not while still green. Fruits thus picked, and well packed, would ride six days without damage. Boxes should be discarded, flaring vessels used, and the railroad companies compelled to carry the vessels without upsetting them. He packed in oak leaves. He picked when the fruit would just and barely yield to pressure with the finger.

Dr. Claggett dwelt upon the importance of proper transportation, and said that of the fruit brought to the market two-thirds would bring more money than the whole, if one-third were left at home. A shipper would make money by gaining a reputation for putting up only perfect fruits and giving all the imperfect fruit to the pigs.

Mr. Dunlap said, in reply to inquiry, that the shipping of fruits immediately on ice had proved a failure, but in the refrigerator car abundant ventilation prevented the ruinous moisture, and thus this mode of shipping was successful. He adverted to the waste of good vinegar apples in orchards, where the codling moth had detached the apples.

Mr. Nelson, of Indiana, said he allowed no apples to be on the ground more than one day, and thus produced good vinegar at not less than forty cents per gallon, and thus also got rid of the codling moth. He kept a man busy picking apples. He would sell no apples that would not bring a dollar a bushel, and of the rest he made vinegar.

(To be continued.)

### PEAR BLIGHT.

EDS. FARMER:—A short time since I noticed an article on the subject of "pear blight," and various theories advanced as to the cause; but none of them appeared to be successful. Now, I do not pretend to say that I know of a positive remedy, but one which has proved successful in my experience. Some years since we set out a number of pear trees, all of which after growing finely one or two years, died of the blight, with the exception of one—and that one was set beside a hen roost, so near that it derived its subsistence from the droppings of the roost. This one grew finely, and never showed any symptoms of blight. Acting upon the hint that hen manure might be the cause of it not being injured by blight, I have experimented on a number of trees by placing around the roots a quantity of hen manure, and have never lost a tree by blight since. The remedy is simple, and may be tried by any one.—*W. D. D., Spencer, O.*

### HANGING EVERGREENS FOR WINTER.

Some of the simplest and yet most beautiful embellishments for winter window decorations have been pots of the English Ivy (*Hedera*.) The plants should be grown in pots in a cool, partially shaded situation during summer, being careful to have a stone or brick under the pot to prevent the roots gaining earth beyond the pot. In late autumn these pots of ivy, with their dark, rich, green foliage, clean and glossy, can be transferred to the window of a sitting-room or library, and even should the temperature run down to zero, they are not at all injured.—*Horticulturist.*

Do you want a knitting machine?

Do you want a collection of valuable flower seeds?

Do you want Webster's Unabridged Dictionary?

Do you want a barometer? Read last page.

## Ladies' Department.

### DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

**PRESERVING GRAPES DURING THE FALL AND WINTER.**—*Mr. Editor:*—I am often asked the question, what method do you pursue in keeping grapes? also, what kind of bottles are best for preserving fruit? To both of which inquiries I consider the same answer applicable. Neither the bottles for preserving which you select, (for all the bottles in market are excellent,) or the method for keeping grapes which you adopt, are at fault; but success generally depends upon the proper carrying out of the principles or rules to be observed in any operation.

Grapes properly packed and laid away may be successfully kept through the winter, and into the spring months. To do this properly, several methods may be pursued, all of which are good.

You may either gather them on a fine, dry, and warm day, and after cutting out all green and imperfect ones, place upon the bottom of a small, good, clean barrel, and sprinkle over bran or sawdust till those bunches are covered, and so on till full, being careful not to bruise them in handling, and that they shall not touch each other; or you may fold each bunch carefully though loosely in paper, and lay in a box or drawer till wanted, or you may arrange boards in an upper room, covering with paper, and allow the bunches to rest gently and separately there; or they may be packed in shallow crates, or boxes, or baskets, between wadding, which will absorb the moisture. Some wax the end of each bunch, and then suspend them by strings overhead in some spare room. I should like to try the experiment of charcoal. I fancy that powdered charcoal would be an excellent material for packing grapes; but so far, I have not been able to attain the article conveniently. The grapes before picking should be ripe.

Do not pick more at one time than you can properly dispose of at once, though some persons gather all and air them for a few days before packing. Whether you intend to make wine or to pack, do not, I beseech of you, gather in a promiscuous mass and throw them down, as I have seen, in one corner, and then leave to mold, mildew, and rot, waiting to be cared for, but waiting in vain, till they have become fit food only for the pigs. After all are picked, they should be put into some place as cold as possible, but where there is no danger from frost. If Jack Frost sees them once, he marks them for destruction—their doom is sealed. If desired to market, procure small, round boxes, which will hold from four to six pounds., as they will sell better, and handling will be avoided.

ADALINE K. ANTHONY.

**TOMATO CATSUP.**—One gallon skinned tomatoes, four tablespoonsful of fine salt, four tablespoonsful black pepper, two of allspice, eight of mustard seed, eight pods of red pepper, bruised fine, and simmered in a 'nt of sharp vinegar. Stew the whole slowly for

three hours in a porcelain kettle; strain through a sieve and bottle, adding vinegar, if much stewed away, to the desired thickness.

**MANGOES.**—Take large cucumbers, or quite young and small smooth-skinned mush melons; cut from the side a piece of any desired shape, and take out the seeds, readjust the piece, tie with a string, and pour over the whole hot salt and water, not too strong. Prepare, at the same time, also in salt and water, small white onions, radish pods, nasturtiums, horse-radish, small tomatoes, or cabbage. In five days drain well, then stuff with the small ingredients, spice with mustard seed, and pour boiling vinegar over them. A little mace and red pepper may be added to the vinegar.

**GREEN TOMATO PICKLE.**—Slice a peck of green tomatoes and a dozen and a half of onions; sprinkle salt over the layers, and allow to stand twelve hours; drain and pour over hot-spiced vinegar, allowing a piece of alum as large as a nutmeg.

**YELLOW CUCUMBER SWEET PICKLE.**—Take large yellow cucumbers, fully ripe, peel and slice in lengths one-fourth of an inch thick; prepare a sirup of water and sugar, quite sweet, spiced a little, (cloves will do;) boil the slices, a few at a time, in the sirup, till you can run a fork through readily, or till transparent; place in a crock and pour over the remaining sirup. Some prefer to add vinegar to the sirup.

**RED CABBAGE PICKLE.**—Slice good firm heads, and on a large dish place a layer of cabbage and a sprinkle of salt, till all is packed; next day drain, put in a crock and pour over hot-spiced vinegar, remembering a little alum.

**MOUNTAIN CAKE.**—1 cup of sugar, 2 eggs, half a cup of butter, half a cup of milk or water, 2 of flour—a teaspoonful cream tartar, half teaspoonful of soda. Flavor with vanilla or lemon.—*Mrs. K., Rochester, N. Y.*

### HOUSEHOLD CARES---No. 9.

"Bless me, sister M—, you don't meant to say you're a washin' this wet morning! You'll never dry them in this soaking rain. 'Taint fit to do anything earthly such a day, so I thought I'd fetch my knitting along and have a chat."

"I am glad to see you, sister Curtis," I replied, wiping my hands on the towel that hangs behind the woodshed door. "Come in, and take off your things. You did not get wet, I hope."

"Oh no, 'taint far you know, and I fetched father's big umbrel along. But I 'aint a' going to hinder you a washin'—I'll sit just down here on this bench, and see you rub. Your clothes allers look so nice—I am glad I ketched you, and may be I can learn something. But what on earth did ye wash to-day for, why it pours a' rain?"

"Well, you see, I always put my clothes to soak over night, and not liking to leave them too long in the soaking water, I am finishing them up, and shall let them stand in clean water and rinse them to-morrow, and hang out if it is fine."

"Du tell, now; if you soak your clothes over night.



I never do that, and I reckon 'taint much use, no way. You soak 'em in cold water, of course."

"Oh no, sister Curtis, I think cold soaking is little better than no soaking at all. The way I do is this. Having put on the fire a boiler full of clean soft water, allowing a piece of washing soda a trifle larger than a butternut, and an equal quantity of soap cut up fine, and leaving it to come to a certain heat, I sort out the clothes. All the fine ones—such as best shirts, muslins, and babies' white dresses—I put in one tub; the coarser things in another, and the stockings by themselves in a pail. When the water is just hot enough to allow me to put my hand in, I pour it over the clothes, cover with my ironing blanket and a board, and leave them till morning."

"Du tell now; and do you use any soda when you boll the clothes?"

"I do not. I boll the clothes in clean water and a little soap. I think the objection which some persons have to washing soda is caused by using too much, causing the clothes to look yellow; but if it is only added to the soak water and not to the finishing water, this difficulty would never occur, and the clothes would not be rotted by it, as some affirm that they are, as the washing twice and the boll would extract all traces of its having been used."

"So you sud your clothes twice, do you?"

"Always. I do not think they can be clean unless they are rubbed through two waters."

"What are you doin' to your wringer?"

"I am oiling it; it turns rather stiff this morning, and oiling it will make it go so easily."

"I want to know; well, I never thought of oilin' mine. What made you think of it?"

"Well, you see this little hole just over the handle and on the opposite side also—over that is printed oil, so I know, of course, what it is meant for, and I soon found out the advantage of it, and I now oil mine every week or two."

"Well, I'm beat. I wonder if that isn't what is the matter with our'n; we can't do nothing with the thing, and Melinda and I have well nigh give it up."

"I should not wonder, sister Curtis, if oil would rectify the difficulty. But what seems to be the special trouble?"

"Well you see it won't stick on the tub. Melinda holds it while I wring the light things—handkerchiefs and such; but when it comes to the heavy sheets and tablecloths, it is just as much as father and Melinda can do to hold the critter steady while I turn the crank."

"You do make hard work of it, indeed," I said laughing. "Your wringer is like mine, is it not?"

"Of course it is, we got 'em at the same time?"

"Well, then, if it is in proper order it will hold itself on to the tub. You know what this screw is for behind?"

"No, I don't, nor Melinda neither."

"It is to screw up, and thus to secure the wringer on to the tub; when you wish to take it off unscrew, it will loosen, and all you have to do is to take it off."

"Du tell. Well, 'live and learn,' they say. I am

glad if I can fix our'n so, for Melinda is proper cross every time we use the thing; if we hadn't paid so much money for it, we should a thrown it away long ago; but where is your girl, I don't see her around nowhere?"

"She is not very well to-day; in fact, she is almost sick with a cold, so I told her to take care of the children, and do the lighter work, while I wash."

"You are real good to her—more good to her than she deserves—and I am most a sorry I recommended her to you."

"Why," I said, stopping from my washing and looking up in surprise, for the girl had lived some time with sister Curtis, and had had a good recommend to me from her; "what can Kate have done to make you alter your opinion of her?"

"Well, you see, she has gone and spoilt my currant preserves that I set so much store on. Its queer how fond some folks is of sweetmeats; now for my part I wouldn't care if I never tasted 'em."

"How did it happen?"

"Well, you see, I only had about four quarts of currants, so I balled 'em up with a little sugar, and bottled 'em, boiling hot, just as I seen directions for peaches in your paper that you writes for. They filled a quart bottle when they were done, so I put 'em in that and put the lid on tight. I put 'em to stand in my sitting room closet, where I could see them often, and this morning I observed, for the first time, that the lid was off, and the files in and the preserves all fermented, and right mad I was too, I reckon, and I thought I would come and tell you that you had better see to yourn, for I know you set such store by 'em."

"I do, indeed, think a great deal of my bottled fruit, and would feel badly if any accident should happen to them. But when I was at your house last time—did we not have currants for tea?"

"Of course we did, and you said you thought they was very nice."

"Did those we had to eat come from your two quart bottle?"

"Yes, of course; I had no others, and I took just enough for tea, and bottled up tight again."

"That accounts for it, sister Curtis. Opening the bottle and keeping it in that warm closet this warm weather, of course it would ferment."

"Why you don't say! Now I never thought of that, but somebody must a been at it, for the lid was lying kind of careless like on the top, and I am sure Melinda has been better brought up than to touch any thing."

"Oh, that can be accounted for on philosophical principles. When they fermented the lid popped out, just as your peaches all popped the last year, you remember."

"I want to know. Well, you have the queerest way a gettin' out of things. I should never a thought of that, and perhaps you are right after all. I am glad I come over, 'cause I have heard about the wringer, and think likely Melinda and me can make it go; but I am sure of one thing, I aint agoin' to have nothing to do with bottling sass any more—it don't pay, and I don't believe in it no way."

AUNT ROSA.

## Editor's Table.

### CLUBS, CLUBS!—FORM CLUBS!!

With the last number we sent our blank subscription lists to all our agents and single subscribers, many of which have been already returned to us filled with new names for 1868. We are rejoiced at the voluntary and liberal way in which our agents are working in extending the circulation of

**The Practical Farmer's Own Paper,** the cheapest and best Agricultural and Horticulture Journal in America, and we would earnestly urge all our friends to get up clubs, and help to swell our list until it reaches

#### Fifty Thousand Subscribers.

Now is the time for all to make a united effort. On the last page of this number we offer many valuable and liberal prizes, which are open to all; no competition; all can obtain a prize and as an additional inducement to form clubs early, we offer to send all new subscribers this month the

#### Remainder of this Year Free.

Will not all our friends who have received blank lists, try and fill them out with names among their neighbors and acquaintances? We have no paid agents, all are voluntary, and every reader of THE FARMER can act as agent for us. Reader, will you not try what you can do?

### THE WEATHER, CROPS, &c.

#### Notes on the Weather from Aug. 15, to Sept. 16, 1867.

In the second half of August there fell only 0.57 inch of rain, and in the month only 0.72 inch. Of course the drouth was pretty great till the half inch of rain fell on the 28th, and gave some relief to the narrow section over which the fine showers passed. The mean heat of the last half was 67.9°, and the general average 67.0; and of the month was 69.7°, or 1.2° above the general average, 68.4°. The drouth had made the temperature appear higher than it would have done in a damper atmosphere. The highest mean of the month was 71.1° in 1856, and the lowest mean was 65.5° in 1844. The hottest month is July, 70.6°; the next is August, 68.4°; and the next, June, 66.8°. Most rain has fallen here in July; the next in September, and the next in May. The average heat of the summer months is 68.5°; of winter months, 26.5°; of spring months, 44.2°; and of autumn, 48.9°. The amount of the first two is 95.°, and of the last two, is 93.1 inches, and the mean is 47° for the year. Prospect of fall crops is far better, and the general health quite good. Isabella grapes have flowered to this month, and are not half grown.

SEPTEMBER gave us 1.81 inches of rain in its first half, so that we are cheered by the better prospects of the autumnal harvest. The heat has been for this half 5°, or 2.4° below the general average. The coldest

morning was 43°, and coldest day 49.7°; hottest noon, 81° twice, and hottest day 71°. The range of the mean of this half is between 57.1° in 1859, and 72.7° in 1865; and the next below this highest was 72.1° in 1846. There was a slight frost on the morning of the 11th, when the cold was 42°, which did little injury to any vegetation. The weather has been chiefly pleasant; much clear, or nearly clear weather. One can hardly contemplate these differences in the heat and rain of different seasons, and summers especially, without thinking with gratitude that summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, and day and night, are under such a direction as to secure abundantly the means of subsistence for animals and for man. Soon it will be seen over the North that the harvest of maize is greater than expected at the North, as it is far greater at the South and West.

Perhaps the shrub last flowering here is the tree Hibiscus, or Hibiscus Syriacus, as it was derived from Syria, not *Tree Hollyhock*, as it is often called. It is still flowering over the city. The autumnal flowers are still abundant. The variegated foliage, so striking in our hilly country, is now advancing to full display. It depends on the maturing leaves, and occurs often before any frost has affected them with its destructive power.

In Western New York the corn crop will be unusually light, and many farmers will not save more than their seed. A great deal has already been cut to save for fodder in this section; and from what we saw on a recent trip West, the prospect through Western Canada and Michigan is about the same as here.

The drouth of the past summer has been very severe on corn, and the crop through the above sections is very poor, but through Northern Illinois we saw some very good corn. A large area has been planted in that State, and the yield looked promising, but from what we heard from farmers we are inclined to think it will be far short of last year.

Peaches have been a very heavy crop in Delaware and New Jersey, especially in the former State; also in Michigan and other Western States, being sold in Chicago as low as eighty cents to a dollar a basket. We saw trees in Northern Illinois completely loaded down with this delicious fruit.

Of apples, it is uncertain to give any estimate, as while in some sections there is a good crop, others are entirely without any. We have seen some trees in this section and Canada well loaded with medium-sized apples, while in the same orchards many trees have no fruit at all.

The potato crop will be light in most sections.

#### From Illinois.

The weather thus far, in 1867, has been rather unfavorable for the farmer. We had a very late spring, and most farmers did not finish planting corn as late as the 10th of June. The latter part of July and through August, it has been very dry, and retarded the corn crop somewhat; and from present appearances it will not be more than half a crop. It has been a splendid season for the hay crop, which is the heaviest for some years, and as there was no rain in hay harvest the farm

ers have saved it in good condition. Our grain harvest we cannot complain of. The winter wheat was excellent, but there is very little raised in this section, as it freezes out. Spring wheat has done well, but was hurt by the rust, and does not turn out as the farmers expected. Average 10 bushels to the acre. It was saved in good condition. The fruit crop will be light this year, but the blight is very severe on the apple trees. It has never been known to be so bad: some trees I have almost completely cut up, to check it. I cut it off as fast as it appears, and burn it. Is there no one as yet, who has fathomed the mysteries of what causes this blight? We should be glad to hear those who are good authority give an opinion on the subject. We have a peach crop this year. This is a luxury we do not enjoy but once in four or five year. It is almost too cold here.—*G. W. K., McLean County.*

#### From West Virginia.

"J. R." writes us from German Settlement, Preston County, August 6th:

Wheat is better here than it has been for some years. Rye was never better than it is this year. We have had a week or two for harvest weather, though we had a shower to-day. We had a cold and backward spring. Corn was planted late, but it looks very well. Oats are very good so far. Potatoes are very early this year. Grass is very good; better than for three or four years. Fruit is not over plenty, though more so than for the last three years.

#### From Kentucky.

The weather is exceedingly warm and dry, and has been for several weeks. The corn crop is being cut very rapidly. If rain was to come now, there are in this vicinity many fields that would not make half a crop. The fruit crop is small, and is being injured by the drouth. There was a fine bloom this spring, but the cold weather and late frost caused it to drop. The grass is very much parched by the hot sun of these dry days; but if rain come, we have time enough yet for fine grass this season.—*A. G. M., Anderson Co., Ky.*

#### From Tennessee.

We saw a farmer yesterday from the country who states that the corn crop was never better, and that some farmers offer to contract their crop to be delivered on the premises at 20 cents per bushel. The wheat crop here was fair in quantity, and extra good in quality, and harvested in fine condition. It is coming to market gradually. The market opened at \$1.50, but has gradually declined to \$1.25.—*P., Chattanooga, Tenn.*

#### Maine Items.

The harvest season is closing. The weather has been very irregular during the summer and autumn, much water having fallen. Crops are generally good. Hay was very heavy. Potatoes are beginning to rot, and it is feared the disease will be general and widespread. Grain of all kinds is heavy. Apples are very scarce. Stock is high though quite plenty. The following are

the prices of some of the principal farm crops in this market:—Hay, \$10 a ton; potatoes, 50 cents per bushel; oats, 80 cents; cooking apples, 50 to 75 cts.; beef, 10 to 12 cts.; butter, 25 cts. eggs, 23 cts. per doz.; lambs, \$1.50 to \$2 each; wool, 35c to 45c. per pound. Farmers generally have been successful in their crops, and have prospect of a fair market at paying prices.—*G. E. B., Belfast, Me.*

#### From Ohio.

Wheat in this section of country is all harvested, and is the best crop for many years. Oats are a full average crop. Corn, owing to the late spring, will not at best, be more than a two-third crop. Fruit, (such as apples and peaches) is very scarce.—*W. D. D., Spencer, Ohio.*

THE AMERICAN FARMER ANNUAL AND LADIES' GARDEN COMPANION FOR 1868.—We have now in press, and will issue this month, a beautiful Treatise on the Cultivation of Hardy Bulbs, Tuberous Rooted Flowers, Roses, House Plants, &c., which we take great pleasure in commending to the notice of the public as a valuable auxiliary to the cultivation of flowers. It will be beautifully illustrated, and filled with choice reading matter containing full and practical directions for the cultivation and management of all the different plants on which its treats—the price being so low as to bring it within the reach of every true lover of flowers. We expect a large circulation, and shall be pleased to receive orders at as early a date as possible, as the first edition will soon be exhausted.

Price of single copies, 30 cents; Eight copies, \$2.00; 100 copies, \$20.

A few short appropriate advertisements will be inserted at the rate of \$20 a page, if received on or before the 10th instant.

#### New Catalogue.

THE catalogues of professional horticulturists are already accumulating on our table, and all give evidence of the increasing prosperity in everything that pertains to horticulture; but as the majority of them give merely lists of trees and plants, without any reference to their arrangement in grounds, it is quite a relief to come across one that does this.

Such a one we have now before us—Webster's Catalogue of Bulbs and Plants, adapted to the American style of flower gardens, which contains designs for flower gardens, and how to plant them. One of these is a beautiful colored plate, showing the arrangement of colors to the different beds.

Mr. Webster being a practical horticulturist, and having devoted considerable attention to the theory of colors, has treated the subject scientifically, and produced results that a novice may reap the benefit of by following the directions there laid down. The want of such a guide has long been felt, and we commend this as a valuable *vade mecum* to all who cultivate the smallest flower garden. As Mr. Webster mails it free to all customers, we have no doubt our readers will embrace the opportunity of sending for a copy.

## Inquiries and Answers.

**EDS. FARMER:**—Will some of the readers of THE FARMER please give through the columns of your paper, one or more articles on the subject of *green manuring*? I am a young man, and have recently purchased 20 acres of land, naturally good soil, but pretty well exhausted by bad usage. I have no stock, and consequently no manure with which to improve the condition of my land. Plowing under green crops has been recommended as a cheap and effective way of improving worn out land, and I much desire to learn the *quickest* and *best* way of producing this result. What crops are best adapted for this purpose, and what seasons the most favorable? Can you tell of any better way for improving such lands? Do you think subsoiling would pay? The land is sandy loam, with a few patches of gravel, free from water. Do you think sowing plaster or ashes would be a good plan, and which would be the best for this soil to bring in clover? Which the most economical, considering cost and results, allowing 30 cents a bushel for ashes, and 65 cents a hundred for plaster? Will some of your readers give some information on this subject?—*J. R., Southwick, Mass.*

A neighbor has a young vineyard of 15 acres (Catawbas), ten acres of which were well set with fruit this season, but when about full grown the mildew appeared, and there is not a single grape left. They rotted, and all dropped off within two weeks. What shall he do? Some recommend further trial, hoping the like may not occur often. Others advise grafting them at once with some variety not liable to mildew. Will some of your readers advise him through THE FARMER?

A party recently from Kent, England, says they have a variety of hops there superior in yield and quality to the hops grown in the United States. Do you know of such a variety? and if so, has it been imported and propagated so that roots of it may be obtained here?—*P., Chattanooga, Tenn.*

**REMARKS.**—It is Branchley's Prolific, but has not yet been imported into this country. We believe arrangements are being made to introduce that variety and test whether it will suit our drier climate.—*EDS.*

*a* I would be glad to get some information through THE AMERICAN FARMER, how to make or prepare a fruit room, and would like to get some instruction on dwarf fruit trees. *(b)* I am a great lover of dwarf fruit trees, and have no information on them.—*J. R., German Settlement, W. Va. (b)*

*a* Do you want a fruit room for preserving or drying purposes?

*b* We can send you Thomas' Fruit Culturist, the best work on the subject.

Does any one wintering bees on their summer stands avoid losing less than one-fourth of the number?

Does any one wintering in a special depository avoid losing less than one-fourth of the number?

Will it be an injury to a hive of bees to inspect the combs, say once a week, for investigation, if they are placed back without breaking?

Will it pay to feed bees in the spring?

Is it best to set hives six inches or six feet from the ground?—*J. M., St. Charles, Ill.*

**EDS. AM. FARMER:**—Can you inform your many readers of a correct and safe way of preserving eggs. One says pickle them in lime water. This I understand will destroy the shell after a time, and thus destroy the eggs. Another uses fine salt. This absorbs the whole of the egg, and depreciates its value; and now the question with me is, what will preserve them the best. Science has probably, ere this, made the discovery, and many a housewife will thank you for its publication.—*P. H., Auburn, N. Y.*

See Ladies Department, page 254.

**FIELD PLASTER.**—Can you inform me where I can procure what is called field plaster, and at what price? *Subscriber, Dayton, O.*

It can be purchased in this city at \$5 per ton. Barrels and freight extra.

## Literary Notices, &amp;c.

## THE FARMER'S JOURNAL.

A blank book with the proper headings and rulings for keeping account in detail of all business transactions of the farm and the family, so classified and arranged as to present the result of each year's business in a small compass, and convenient form, and so that the balance sheet can be easily adjusted; and to assist in rendering the annual income return to be made to the assistant assessor of internal revenue. Published by A. DeLancey Brigham, Rochester, N. Y. Price \$3.50.

**VINEYARD CULTURE**, Improved and Cheapened by A. du Breuil, Professor of Viticulture and Arboriculture in the Royal School of Arts and Trades. Paris: translated by E. & C. Parker, of Longworth's wine house, with notes and adaptations to American culture. By John A. Warder, author of "American Pomology." 144 illustrations. Cincinnati, O.: Robert Clarke & Co., publishers.

## THE DIAMOND DICKENS.

This illustrated edition of Dickens' works is becoming immensely popular, and justly so—for they are got up in an attractive style, and should find a place in every library. Nicholas Nickleby is now out. Price for the plain edition, \$1.25. Illustrated, \$1.50. Ticknor & Fields, Boston, Mass.

**NEIGHBORS' WIVES.** By J. T. Trowbridge, author of "Neighbor Jackwood," "Father Brighthopes," &c. Boston: Lee & Shepherd.

**STEPHEN DANE.** By Amanda W. Douglas, author of "In Trust," &c. Boston: Lee & Shepherd.

A deeply interesting book. The hero of this tale is taken through various trials and crooked paths, and suffers much for the guilt of others, but in the end hearts are united and all troubles healed.

Each of the above works for sale by Darrow & Kempshall of this city.

**THE ROMANCE OF THE GREEN SEAL.** By Mrs. Catharine A. Warfield. New York: Beadle & Co. Price 50 cents.

**WHO WAS HE?** A story of Two Lives. By Mrs. M. V. Victor. New York: Beadle & Co. Price 50 cents.

An interesting story of a man who acted the part of two lives. Part of the events related occurring at New York and the other at Paris, ending in a finale in New York city.

**A NEW SERIES OF QUESTION BOOKS**—on "The Heroines of the Bible;" or "The Women of Sacred History." In three volumes. For the infant school, children under fifteen years, and those of maturer age. By Rev. P. C. Headley, author of "Women of the Bible," &c., &c. Boston: Henry Hoyt. Price 15 cents each.

**BASE BALL PLAYER:** Comprising the Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Base Ball Convention, together with Rules for the Formation of Clubs, By-Laws, &c. New York: Beadle & Co. Price 15 cents.

**BEADLE'S DIALOGUES:** For Schools, Parlors, and Festivals. Beadle & Co., New York. Price 15 cents.

**OUR SCHOOL DAY VISITOR:** A Magazine for Young People. A Reader in School, and a Companion at Home. Published monthly by J. W. Daughaday & Co., Philadelphia. Price \$1.25 a year.

**THE TEACHER:** His Studies, the Treatment of the Class, and How to Produce Impressions upon the Hearts and Consciences of the Young. By W. S. Blacket. Philadelphia: Rev. S. W. Thomas.

**HOW TO TEACH.** By W. H. Grover, B. S. London. Philadelphia, Rev. S. W. Thomas, 1,018 Arch street.

Received from W. McPherson, Premium List of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Fair, to be held in St. Louis, October 8-11. Premiums to the amount of \$2,500 are offered.

From W. J. C. Taylor, Holmdel, N. J., Catalogue of pure bred Southdown sheep of the flock of the late J. C. Taylor.

From E. J. Evans & Co., York, Pa., Descriptive List of New Strawberries for the fall of 1867 and spring of 1868.

T. C. Evans, Boston, Mass., a beautifully printed advertiser's hand book, containing a complete list of the religious, agricultural, and literary publications in the United States and British Provinces. Also a complete list of New England newspapers, together with valuable suggestions to advertisers. Address T. C. Evans, Box 121, Boston, Mass.

From Messrs. Frost & Co., of this city, Descriptive Catalogue, No. 1, of Fruits, with a fine colored plate of Dr. Nicaise Strawberry, as a frontispiece. Also Wholesale Catalogue No. 4, of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Bulbs, &c., for the autumn of 1867.

From Joseph Sinton, Angola, N. Y., Descriptive Catalogue of Davison's Thornless Black Raspberry. Also Price List of Small Fruits.

From Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, Wholesale Catalogue, No. 4 or Trade List of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Dahlias, &c., for autumn of 1867.

#### The American Farmer in Canada.

As long as the premium on gold continues, we shall send **THE AMERICAN FARMER** to our Canadian subscribers at 50 cents each, in clubs of five or more, or single subscriptions at seventy-five cents.

If American money is sent, our terms will be one dollar a year, or seventy-five cents in clubs. We prepay the American postage on all papers sent to Canada or any of the British Provinces,

#### Commence at Once.

The great secret of getting subscribers, is to commence early. As soon as this number reaches our readers, let all agents and friends who are disposed to get up Clubs, commence at once among their neighbors to induce them to subscribe for "the practical farmer's own paper," for the year 1868. **THE FARMER** is so cheap that every one can afford to take it, and none ought to refuse when asked. All new subscribers will be entered on our books and get the remainder of this year from the time their names are recorded.

Do you want a choral organ?

Do you want a sewing machine?

Read our new Premium List on the last page.

#### THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, Sept. 1, 1867.

**FLOUR**—White wheat, \$15.00@15.50. Red, 12.50@13.00.

**GRAIN**—White wheat, 240@255c. Red, 220@235c. Corn, 125 Barley, \$1@1.30. Rye, 120c. Oats, 75@80c.

**BEANS**—250@300.

**HOPS**—45c for inferior, to 65c. for best samples.

**WOOL**—40c@42½c.

**HAY**—\$12@18.

**PROVISIONS**—Lard, 14½c. Butter scarce, 31@34c. Eggs, 24@ Cheese, 12@15c. Potatoes, 62@75c. Dried apples, 8@9½c. Chickens 25@30c.

#### New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, Sept. 23.

**BEEVES**—Since my last report for **THE AMERICAN FARMER**, the prices for beef cattle have been unsteady and fluctuating. To-day 16½c. seems to be the top of the market. Very few cattle are sold for more than 15c. ¾ lb., net weight, although occasionally two or three extra fattened bullocks are sold for 16c. @16½@17c. ¾ lb. The poorest lots bring only 8c.@10c. ¾ lb., net weight. The general selling price seems to be about 13c.@14c. ¾ lb., net weight.

The receipts for the past week number 6,471. Large numbers of the arrivals are poor scalawags from Texas and the Western Territories and States. Hundreds of them look like spring-poor cattle, and of course must be sold very low.

**MILCH COWS**—The receipts for the past week number only 60, including those received at all the yards. There is but little demand for milch cows. Those that are brought to market are generally quite inferior milkers, and are sold at \$40@80 per head. Occasionally a cow is sold as high as \$100. But cows that will command that price are seldom seen in the New York markets. Two or three milch cows, with calves at their sides, were in market, and were sold at \$110 per head, including the calves.

**CALVES**—The receipt of calves has not diminished since my last report, and the prices are still kept up. The best calves will sell readily at 18c. ¾ lb., live gross weight. As a general rule, however, the good and the poor are all sold at one price—say about 8c.@10c. ¾ lb. When the best are separated from the common lots, and the poorest placed together, the latter will not bring more than 5c.@8c. ¾ lb. At this season of the year, the number of "grassers" is unusually large. The number of calves received at all the yards for the weekly supply for the past week, is 1,781. A large part of the "grassers" not being fit to slaughter, are purchased by farmers and taken to the country.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS**—The receipts of sheep and lambs for the weekly supply were never before known to be so large. The aggregate number at all the markets is expressed by the large number of 36,906 for a single week. The heavy receipts for the weekly supply have tended to glut the market. But there is a determination to keep up the prices at all hazards. Hundreds of poor sheep are sold at lower prices than any herewith quoted. When a sheep broker receives a drove of miserable culls, he disposes of them as fast as possible, and it is difficult to ascertain the real price obtained for such inferior animals, from either buyer or seller, as they will not give the correct figures. Sheep sell for 4c.@6c. ¾ lb., live weight. A small number only are worth 6½c. ¾ lb. Most of the sheep are too poor to slaughter. Lambs of the best quality sell for 6c.@8c. ¾ lb., live weight, but they are required to be first rate to command those prices. Most of the sheep are sold at 5c.@5½c. per lb., live weight.

Drovers state, that on account of the unusually dry weather, farmers are hurrying their stock to market before half of them are fit to slaughter.

**SWINE**—The number of swine for the weekly supply

19,952 on Fortieth street, and 12,805 at the New Jersey stock yards. The receipts of miserably poor and thin hogs are very heavy. Prime corn-fed swine are selling quick, to-day, for 7½¢ @ 3¢. ½ lb., live weight. Common to rough hogs, 6¢ @ 7¢. ½ lb., live weight. There is not much demand for thin and light hogs, even at low figures.

**GRAIN**—The grain market seems to be more in favor of purchasers than sellers. Sales were made on the 21st instant of 83,000 of wheat, including new white Michigan at \$2.60; amber do. at \$2.47½ @ \$2.50, nearly all at \$2.50; No. 1 spring at \$2.27; No. 2 do. to arrive and here, at \$2.19 @ \$2.22; No. 3 spring (a small lot) at \$2.13; amber State at \$2.50; amber Southern at \$2.42, and white California at \$2.67½ @ \$2.75 per bushel. Choice lots of winter wheat, particularly white, have been scarce and wanted at firmer prices. Spring has been more freely offered, especially to arrive, at lower rates, on a very moderate call.

Corn has been in fair speculative request, and in view of the advanced figures reported for Liverpool, prices have improved 2¢ @ 3¢. per bushel. Sales reported on the 21st of 115,000 bushels, closing at \$1.20 @ \$1.28½ for poor to choice mixed Western in store and afloat, and \$1.28½ @ \$1.29 for small lots of nearly pure yellow Western per bushel.

Rye has been in fair request to-day, at firmer prices; sales 19,350 bushels, including State, at \$1.50, and Western at \$1.45 @ \$1.50 per bushel.

Barley continues inactive and nominal.

Barley Malt continues in good demand and firm. Sales, 15,000 bushels, at \$1.55 @ \$1.65 per bushel.

Oats have been in brisk speculative request at firmer prices. We quote new Western at the close of to-day's market at 71¢ @ 72½¢. here and to arrive; new State, 72¢ @ 73¢. per bushel. Sales 265,000 bushels, at the foregoing quotations.

The Albany *Argus* publishes the following comparative statement of the quantity of flour, wheat, corn, and barley left at tide-water during the second week in Sept. in the years 1866 and 1867, as follows:

	Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bus.	Corn, bus.	Bar'y, bus.
1866.....	2,400	98,000	1,125,200	26,600
1867.....	4,500	815,500	776,100	....
Inc. ....	2,400	216,900	Dec. 349,100	26,600

The aggregate quantity of the same articles left at tide water from the commencement of navigation to the 14th Sept., inclusive, during the years 1866 and 1867, was as follows:

	Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bus.	Corn, bus.	Bar'y, bus.
1866.....	139,800	1,199,100	17,160,500	175,600
1867.....	93,200	1,079,900	10,379,100	62,000
Dec. ....	48,000	839,200	6,541,400	213,600

By reducing the wheat to flour, the quantity of the latter left at tide-water this year, compared with the corresponding period last year, shows a decrease of 211,440 barrels of flour.

**FLOUR AND MEAL**—At the present writing flour and meal—particularly Western flour—has been on the decline, with only a moderate demand. A few forced sales, a day or two ago, had a tendency to weaken the flour market to an alarming extent. On the 20th, 8,400 bbls. of Western and State were sold at \$8.15 @ \$9.25 ½ lb. A quantity of very poor to good and extra State was sold at \$9.75 @ \$10.45; good to choice extra State at \$10.50 @ \$11.15; poor to good shipping brands of round hoop extra Ohio at \$9.80 @ \$10.85 ½ bbl. We now quote: Superfine State and Western, \$8.15 @ \$9.25; extra State, \$9.75 @ \$11.15; extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c., \$9.85 @ \$13.75; extra Ohio, round-hoop, shipping brands, \$9.80 @ \$18.70; extra Ohio, trade and family brands, \$10.75 @ \$14.00; extra Genesee, \$11.20 @ \$14; common to choice extra Missouri, \$12.30 @ \$16. Southern flour is in more demand, and held more firmly. Rye flour is in better demand, at from \$6.50 @ \$8 for inferior to very choice ½ bbl.; sales 650 bbls. Corn meal continues in good request at \$6.15 for City, and \$7 for Brandywine, ½ bbl.; sales 509 bbls. Of California flour sales were reported of 1,250 bbls. and sacks, at \$11.25 @ \$13.50 ½ bbl. of 196 lbs. The state of the market is such, that no one can foretell the future.

**BUTTER**—Since my last report the prices for butter have fluctuated wonderfully, and at present writing the butter market is dull, although prices are well up and somewhat firm. The top of the market is expressed by the following figures:

Orange and Sussex fresh pails, 80¢ @ 40¢. ½ lb.; Pennsylvania and State counties, fresh pails, 28¢ @ 30¢. ½ lb.;

New York State firkins, prime yellow, 83¢ @ 35¢. ½ lb.; New York State firkins, light colored, 82¢ @ 33¢. ½ lb.; New York State half firkin tubs, good to prime 88¢ @ 34¢; New York State Welsh tubs, good to prime, 25¢ @ 30¢. ½ lb.; North Pennsylvania firkins, good to prime 27¢ @ 30¢. ½ lb.; Western reserve firkins, good to prime, 25¢ @ 28¢. ½ lb.; Chicago and North-western firkins, good to prime, 20¢ @ 25¢. ½ lb.; Middle Ohio firkins, good to prime, 17¢ @ 20¢. ½ lb.; Grease butter, original packages, 11¢ @ 12¢. ½ lb.

Dealers appear to think that there never has been larger receipts of very poor butter than they are now receiving.

**CHEESE**—The demand for cheese is quite moderate, at the following quotations: Factory dairies, extra, ½ lb., 15¢ @ 16¢; Factory dairies, fair, ½ lb., 13½¢ @ 14½¢; Farm dairies, extra, ½ lb., 14¢ @ 15¢; Farm dairies, fair, ½ lb., 11¢ @ 12¢; Skimmed cheese, ½ lb., 6¢ @ 8¢.

**SUGARS**—Have been in light request since my last report at about former prices. Sales have been reported since my last of 730 hhds. Cuba, &c., at 11½¢ @ 13¢, and 164 boxes Havana, at 12½¢ @ 13½¢. ½ lb. Refined sugars continue in demand at from 14¢ @ 16½¢. ½ lb.

**HAY**—North river bale continues in moderate demand at 75¢ @ 80¢. for shipping, and \$1.20 @ \$1.50 for local use, per 100 lbs. Straw is in request at 60¢ @ 90¢. per 100 lbs. The most of the hay offered in the New York markets is of a very poor quality.

**HOPS**—Are in fair request at the following quotations, which includes both American and foreign. American hops sell at 40¢ @ 70¢. for new; older growths 10¢ @ 55¢, and foreign at 40¢ @ 75¢. ½ lb. The receipts of the week foot up about 500 bales, a large proportion of which is of an inferior quality. With but few exceptions, our dealers have already secured their supply of hops in Central New York and Wisconsin; but as these purchases will not begin to arrive much before the 10th or 15th October, dealers are beginning to experience difficulty in finding good hops in the market, sufficient to fill orders for immediate use. In this situation liberal, and more particularly early arrivals, are much needed. A few sample bales of Wisconsin have been received. The quality is not as uniform as last season, though it is as much so as can be expected for so extensive a yield. The best sample we have yet seen from that State was grown in Fond du Lac county, and represents a growth of 7,000 lbs. A few hundred bales as good as this sample would be taken up quick by our dealers, at a price corresponding with the highest quotations given.

**MOLASSES**—Continues in fair demand, including Porto Rico at 52½¢ @ 75¢; Cuba at 38¢ @ 57¢; English Islands at 56¢ @ 57¢. ½ gallon. These figures represent the wholesale prices, or what producers receive.

**LIVE POULTRY**—Is in fair request, at the following figures, which represent the wholesale price to producers:

Turkeys, 22¢ @ 24¢. ½ lb.; fowls, ½ lb., 16¢ @ 18¢; spring chickens, ½ lb., 15¢ @ 20¢; geese, ½ pair, \$2.00 @ \$3.00; ducks, ½ pair, 75¢ @ \$1.25.

**EGGS**—Are in better supply, and as the demand continues, good prices are maintained.

Jersey, extra brands, at mark, ½ dozen, 30¢ @ 31¢; State and Penn., at mark, ½ dozen, 25¢ @ 30¢; Ordinary Western, loss off, ½ dozen, 25¢ @ 29¢; Western by Express, at mark, ½ dozen, 26¢ @ 27¢; Canada, loss off, ½ dozen, 26¢ @ 27¢.

**GREEN FRUIT**—Is abundant, but a large proportion of the receipts consists of inferior articles. Peaches are in good demand, this being about the last week. Pears and grapes are improving, and will do better when peaches are over. Apples have advanced, choice qualities selling well.

Apples, Western ½ bbl., \$3.50 @ \$6.00; do. ordinary, do., \$2.50 @ \$3.00; peaches, Delaware, ½ basket, \$1 @ \$2.50; do. Jersey, do., \$2 @ \$2.50; whortleberries, ½ bushel, \$2 @ \$3.50; pears, Bartlett, ½ bbl., \$6 @ \$8.50; do. common, do., \$2.50 @ \$3.50; do. Dutchess, do., \$10 @ \$12; plums, Damson, ½ bushel, \$7.50 @ \$9; do. Green Gages, do., \$13 @ \$14; do. Blue Home, do., \$3.50 @ \$5; Grapes, Isabella, ½ lb., 15¢ @ 20¢; do. Concord, do., 15¢ @ 20¢; do. Delaware, do., 20¢ @ 25¢.

**PEAS AND BEANS**—There is but little activity in beans and peas. The demand for beans is light, with prices more in the buyers' favor.

Beans, marrow, prime new, ½ bushel, \$4.40 @ \$4.50; beans, medium, prime new, ½ bushel, \$4.25 @ \$4.40; beans, kidney, hand-picked, ½ bushel, \$4.50 @ \$4.75; prime beans, mixed parcels, ½ bushel, \$3.00 @ \$4.00; peas, Canada, in bulk, ½ bushel, \$1.25 @ \$1.30; peas, Canada, in bbls., ½ bushel, \$1.40 @ \$1.45.

**POTATOES**—The market has been abundantly supplied with potatoes for a long time. Immense quantities of poor potatoes are received and sold at lower prices than we give. The following figures show the wholesale price to producers:

Buckeyes, ½ bbl., \$2.25 @ \$2.50; peach blows, do., \$2.75 @ \$3.50; Dyeckmans, do., \$2.00 @ \$2.25; Jackson whites, do., \$2.25 @ \$2.50; Mercers, do., \$2.75 @ \$3.00; Delaware sweet, do., \$4.75; Virginia sweet, do., \$4.00.

**WOOL**—The wool market is about as follows: Domestic fleeces at 40c. @ 45c.; for native and one-fourth Merinos, 45c. @ 48c.; for one-half and three-quarters do., 50c. @ 55c.; for full-blood Merinos, 55c. @ 58c.; for Saxony fleeces, 50c. @ 55c.; for No. 1 pulled, 58c. @ 45c.; for superfine do., 45c. @ 50c.

Since my last report there are no new features to note. Business generally remains dull. Prices are somewhat irregular. Fine fleeces are scarce and firm, while coarse, and medium grades are dull and heavy. Judging from present appearances, there can be little or no encouragement to hold on for a better market.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

**RATES OF ADVERTISING.**—Advertisements of interest to farmers, will be inserted in *THE AMERICAN FARMER* for 25 cents a line, or \$2.50 per square of 10 lines, each insertion, payable in advance. To secure insertion, they should be sent in by the 15th of the previous month. *THE FARMER* has subscribers in every State, and nearly every Territory. There is no better or cheaper medium for advertising everything of general interest to rural residents in all parts of the United States and Canada. *Special notices, 50 cents per line.*

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### PATENT

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**A**CROSS BETWEEN THE DIANA AND BLACK Hamburg—claimed by good judges to be the largest, best flavored, and most beautiful American grape. The cluster is about as large as the Black Hamburg, with almost its precise flavor. The flesh is tender and does not require to be bolted down, seeds and all, like most of our native grapes. The vine has proved hardy with me during a trial of six years. It ripens a week before the Diana, nearly equals the Hamburg in size, with almost its precise flavor. Price:—2-year vines, good plants, \$3 each. Extra sized vines, \$5 each.

oct-21

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Drawer 819, Rochester, N. Y.

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Atlantic Small Fruit Nurseries,  
Elwood, N. J.

oct-11

## DECORATIVE GARDENING.

**WEBSTER'S NEW AMERICAN STYLE.** Designs and Catalogues of Bulbs, Shrubs, and Roses, with a beautiful colored plate sent free to all applicants. Address, **WILLIAM WEBSTER, Rochester, N. Y.**

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Hyacinths, good varieties for out-door Planting.....	\$2 25
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## ROSES.

Those unacquainted with the different varieties or the peculiarities of the Rose, would do well to leave the selection to me, and they may rest assured that they will be fairly and honorably dealt with.

Purchasers are requested to state whether they want Plants for Parlor or Garden, and such only will be sent as are best adapted to the purpose.

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The above selections are of the best quality, and warranted to give satisfaction.

Parties ordering will please state how they wish their orders sent, and write their directions plainly. When not otherwise specified, they will be sent by express. Purchasers can remit by draft on New York, or by Post Office order.

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6 Fine Named Double and Single Hyacinths, for pots, glasses, or open border.....	\$2.00
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8 Early Tulips.....	
12 Fine Mixed Crocus.....	
1 Persian Iris.....	

If by mail add 14c.

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9 Fine Named Double and Single Hyacinths, for pots, glasses, or open border.....	\$5.00
6 Fine Double Tulips.....	
15 Beautiful Named Early Tulips.....	
25 Fine Mixed Crocus.....	
2 Polyanthus Narcissus.....	
8 Double Narcissus.....	
8 Bulbocodium Vernum.....	
8 Persian Iris.....	

25 Double Snowdrops.....

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**No. 3—ASSORTMENTS OF**

18 Fine Named Double and Single Hyacinths, for pots, glasses, or open border.....	\$10.00
50 Fine Mixed Crocus.....	
25 Beautiful Named Early Tulips.....	
12 Fine Named Double Tulips.....	
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100 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....	\$260 to	\$1,000
100 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....	200 to	500
100 Ladies Watches, Enameled.....	100 to	300
200 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....	250 to	800
200 Gold Hunting English Levers.....	200 to	250
800 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....	150 to	200
500 Gold Hunting American Watches.....	100 to	250
500 Silver Hunting Levers.....	50 to	150
500 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....	75 to	150
500 Gold Ladies Watches.....	50 to	250
1,000 Gold Hunting Lepines.....	50 to	75
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Every person obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth, \$1,000. No partiality shown.

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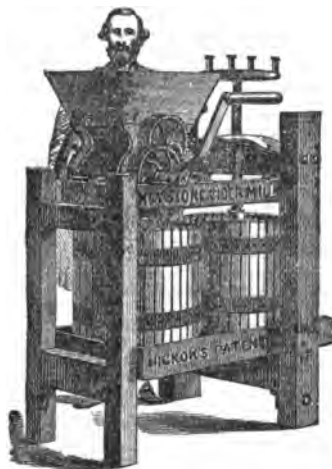
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# THE AMERICAN FARMER

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VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1867.

No 11.



I.

The waning year draws near its close,  
And nature, robed in mourning gloom,  
Bewails the summers' faded bloom;  
The withered leaves of autumn's woes.

II.

All sere and brown the meadows bare,  
Disclaim their tenfold lowest yield;  
And drooping leaves and grasses shield  
The tender roots from biting air.

III.

The farmer gathers all his band—  
From pastures far, and sheltered dells,  
Come lowing herds and tinkling bells,  
To seek the master's sheltering hand.

IV.

And now in farthest northern skies,  
The darkening clouds grow wilder still,  
Till bearing down from distant hills,  
The raging storms of winter rise.

V.

November's clouds have darker wings;  
November storms show deeper gloom—  
More full of prescient seeming doom,  
Than aught the year before it brings.

Belfast, Me.

G. R. B.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

ALL nature sinks to repose, the leaves are falling, the squirrel has laid up its hoard, the swallow and other birds have winged their accustomed flight to a more congenial clime, and remind us that winter with its gloom and its storms is fast approaching, and it behooves us to hasten our preparations, and get all things in order for the bleak and cold months of winter. The farmer is brought in direct contact with nature, and if we only take heed to its lessons, we shall not be caught behind in our work of preparation to meet the demands of the season which is close upon us.

**ROOT CROPS**—Should now all be safely housed, or if stored up in pits and well covered with straw and dirt, a trench should be dug all round to protect from water. The latter plan is the best, as they will keep fresher, and preserve their natural flavor.

**FATTENING HOGS**—Will now require extra care and feed. Feed them liberally, and get them to market early. A bran mash and boiled potatoes once or twice a week will be relished. All their food should be steamed or cooked, as it has been clearly demonstrated that a great saving in food will be accomplished by steaming or cooking.

**POULTRY**—Should be provided with suitable compartments to roost in, where they will be kept warm and dry. Feed them liberally with meat once a week, and supply them with gravel, ashes, and plaster, and they will return the extra labor with a bountiful supply of eggs.

**CATTLE**—To withstand the winter should be kept improving in condition this month by extra feed. Supply plenty of litter and keep them warm. See to the

**VENTILATION**—That there is a free current of air in the stables, without draft. It is of great importance, as no animal can thrive in impure air.

**BEES**.—If our readers have attended to their bees as directed in the last number of *THE FARMER*, very little remains to be done in this month. To those that have not, we repeat, that the bee can not exist without food; therefore, if you expect to winter your light colonies, you must give them (if they have not got it) a full supply of provisions; and it is far more safe feeding than before cold weather, as they will deposit their food in their comb, where they will have access to it, however cold it may be, (see directions for feeding in last number.) We would recommend placing boards temporarily in front of the hives immediately, thus excluding them entirely from the sun, as they can obtain little or no food at this season, and the colder they can be kept the less food they will consume. We will here mention, in advance, that a dry, dark cellar is a good place for

wintering bees. Probably there is no better. Many have to a great extent failed in the attempt in consequence of not fully understanding the secret, which is a thorough ventilation. Will give further particulars in our next.

#### NOTES FROM CANADA.

THE Provincial Agricultural Exhibition was held at Kingston, a place so far to the eastward that few of our most enterprising and prominent breeders and stock raisers could be induced to exhibit, nor could many visitors from the western section afford the expense of traveling so long a distance, consequently the exhibition must be pronounced a failure. Only 16,000 tickets were sold, and the entries numbered 4,204. The quality of the articles shown was, however, very good, and several newly imported animals were exhibited.

M. H. Cochrane, of Compton, C. E., had a fine herd of Shorthorns, among which were "Rosedale," a cow bred by Lady Pigot, and recently bought at a sale in England for 240 guineas. He also has a young bull, six months old, got by "Baron Booth," a celebrated English prize taker. He had also two two-year-olds, "Miss Margaret II," and "Snow-drop," also, "Chloe," a valuable cow. "Rosedale," and "Chloe" take first and second prizes respectively. Mr. Cochrane also shows 59 head of sheep, recently imported, comprising Liecesters, Cotswolds, and Lincolns.

Mr. Stone, as usual, has quite a number of Shorthorns and Herefords, as well as many sheep, and his name is prominent in the prize list.

So also of John Snell, Edmonton, and the Millers, of Peckering and Markham. A fair show of grain, T. Cullis, of Hamilton township, taking the Canada Company's prize of \$100.

The weather was beautiful, and had the exhibition been further west the attendance would have been very large.

#### NEW YORK STATE FAIR.

We went to this exhibition at Buffalo, expecting to see something worthy of the populous and wealthy State of New York, but we were greatly disappointed. The buildings were of such a miserable character that the Buffalonians were ashamed of them. The show of stock was far below our expectations, and had it not been for the enterprise of some of our Canadian stock raisers, there would have been next to nothing in this department. F. W. Stone, Guelph; John Snell, Edmonton; and others, showed Hereford, Devon, and Shorthorn cattle, and a large number of long and medium woolled sheep. Some Alderneys attracted our attention, and seemed the beau ideal of good milch cows. We did not see a good draft horse on the

ground. The grain, seeds, vegetables, &c., were not equal to what is usually shown at a county show in Canada. The fruit was good, and the implements, stoves, machinery, &c., very numerous and good, but badly arranged for a proper inspection.

We saw here, for the first time, a sample of "Baugh's Superphosphate," a portable manure that judged by the samples shown, is really good, and worth all that is claimed for it. Some of our acquaintances intend trying it next year on their farms and fruit gardens, if the price is not too extravagant.

Thanks to the local committee, the "press" were well taken care of, and provided with a separate building, handsomely furnished, and with every comfort they could desire.

The weather has been unusually dry this fall, no rain of any account having fallen since August, till within the last few days. The country looks parched up, the stock are suffering for want of herbage, and the fall wheat sown is making no progress. Threshing operations are very general, but not much grain as yet comes to market, and the price is rising every week. The farmers got such high prices last year, that they can afford to hold on and so starve consumers into giving more than things are really worth. MAC.

THE HOP CROP.—The yield of hops is smaller than I have heretofore estimated in Madison, Otsego and Oneida counties. It is estimated by some good judges at not more than 2 1-2 to 3 cwt. per acre, all told, and very few prime hops. Many yards not picked. Schoharie county has done a little better, I think, but not more than a one-third crop, about 300 lbs. I have seen a fine crop of hops in one hop house in Wayne county sold to a brewer at 70 cents per pound. T. I. McLout, of Manchester, Wayne county, showed me some very fine steers, one of which he sold for 20c per lb., live weight. It brings over \$700—3,600 lbs. It is about five years old. He has a pair of two-year olds which promise to equal this one, said to be twins.—F. W. Collins, (Oct. 21.)

PRINDLE'S STEAM BOILER.—At the New York State Fair, D. R. Prindle, of East Bethany, N. Y., made nine entries, and carried off nine diplomas which showed the value of his inventions. Among them was his steam boiler and caldron for cooking food for stock, which wherever shown has always taken the premium. We learn that over 600 of them are now in use, and everywhere give great satisfaction. In every experiment made the great saving of food by cooking and steaming has been clearly demonstrated, and this invention of Mr. P.'s is just what every farmer wants. Circulars with full particulars and testimonials showing the advantage derived from cooking food for stock, will be sent free by addressing as above.

For Agents—page 360.



## NEW YORK STATE FAIR.

THE Annual Exhibition of the New York State Agricultural Society was held this year at Buffalo, October 1-4. The grounds were situated about three miles northeast of the city, and embraced some forty to fifty acres of the poorest, roughest, and most uneven ground which we ever had the misfortune to travel over. From appearances we should judge that it had been thoroughly tramped by a herd of cattle in muddy weather, then left to dry and harden, leaving numerous holes all over the enclosure. The roads to the grounds were crowded with vehicles of every description, from the one-horse dray to the handsome carriage of the Express company drawn by eight fine spirited horses. These carts, wagons, and carriages, as they wended their way with precious burdens to the center of attraction, raised clouds of dust, which alighting upon the weary passengers, quickly changed black coats to drab, and filled every pore with dust. On the grounds it was the same—dust everywhere. Many articles arrived late, and at the time of our arrival on the morning of the second day few things were in their places, and many goods unpacked. There appeared to be a general lack of that enterprise and spirit which was evinced at previous fairs. The buildings for the display of manufactures and agricultural products were constructed in the most flimsy and temporary manner possible, and it was fortunate that the weather during the time was favorable, for had it been otherwise, there would have been no protection from the rain, none of the buildings being water-proof. They were really the shabbiest specimens of architecture that could possibly be imagined. Passing to the outer circle, we came to

## THE CATTLE.

The display of stock in this department was not as large as at previous fairs, but many animals of superior excellence were shown. H. D. Knapp exhibited a two-year old Shorthorn bull, pure white. Hon. A. B. Conger, of Haverstraw, had nine Shorthorns. Mr. Cornell showed some superior animals of remarkable excellence. F. W. Stone, of Guelph, Canada, a fine bull. J. D. Wing, of Dutchess Co., exhibited his Shorthorn "Emperor," red and white, twenty months old. Among the

## DEVONS,

We found the herd of Walter Cole, of Batavia, which was show at the Michigan State Fair, and previously noticed in our columns. Mr. C. took the first premium on his bull, "Queen Ann's Huron," at both fairs. E. Harmon, of Erie county, also showed a good Devon bull. G. Reed, of Guelph, Canada, exhibited a fine two-year old heifer from imported stock. Also one bull which took second premium.

## GALLOWAYS.

There was only one entry of this breed, a fine bull, by Levi P. Gillett, Youngstown, which attracted a good deal of attention.

## AYRSHIRES.

In this class there was a large number of superior animals. The herd of Wolcott & Campbell, New York Mills, were deserving of special attention. James Brodie, of Rural Hill, Jefferson county, showed a fine young Ayrshire bull, and O. Howland, Auburn, a three-year old bull. J. F. Converse, Woodville, a four-year old red and white bull. Of

## ALDERNEYS,

There was a large number at the fair, making a fine display. W. B. Dinsmore, Staatsburg, showed some twenty head of this breed. His three-year old bull would be hard to beat at any exhibition.

## HEREFORDS

Were well represented from the fine herd of Mr. Corning, of Ithaca, who exhibited some seven heads of this breed. Of

## GRADES,

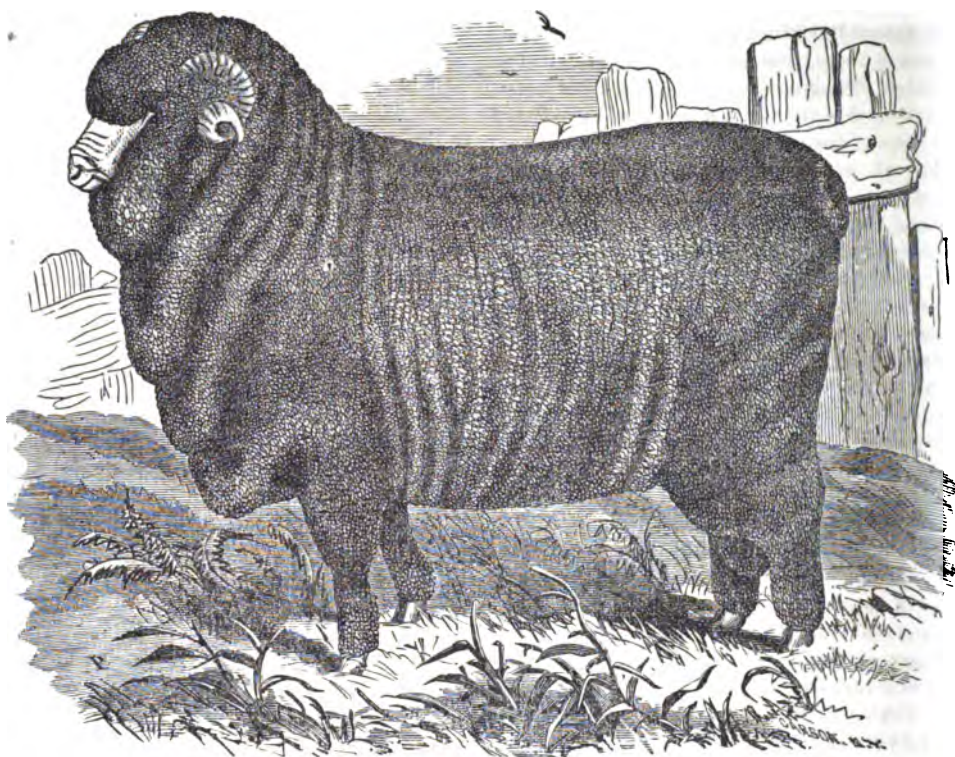
The show was very limited, and not equal in quality to what should be seen at our State Fair. J. W. Taylor, of Ontario, showed some animals that were worthy of notice: one, a steer weighing 2,500 lbs. Many stalls were without tickets, so that it was impossible to give names of owners to many animals of the different herds that were of decided merit.

## SWINE.

This department contained a large number of handsome and well-bred animals, and made a better display than we have seen for some time. Most of them were not of any particular breed, originating from various crosses. Cheshire and Yorkshire crosses seemed to be the prevailing type, while Essex, Berkshire, and Suffolk grades were numerous. S. P. Huffstater, Watertown, showed a large number of improved Yorkshires. T. T. Cavanagh, Watertown, a large number of Cheshires. A. C. Clark, Henderson, several monstrous animals of the improved Cheshire. James Brodie, Jefferson, made a fine show of thoroughbred Yorkshires from imported stock. Large size and displayed close breeding. Of small varieties Mr. Dinsmore, Staatsburg, had several pens of Suffolks.

## HORSES.

This department we are compelled to pass over, owing to the fact that the horses are kept scrupulously locked up from observation at our State Fairs, in close boxes, and only brought out at stated intervals, and then at once returned, and again locked up in their stalls. It is time that a change was brought about in this particular, as no comparison can be made of the animals.



### MERINO RAM "KILPATRICK."

Kilpatrick took the First Premium in Class B, for Rams Three Years old and over, at the New York State Fair, 1887. Owned by Bowker & Bush, Shoreham, Vt. Bred by Hon. William R. Sanford, Orwell, Vt. Of pure Infantado stock. Sire Comet. Dam by Cross Ram. His second fleece in May, 1886, was 30 lbs.; his third in May last, 30 3-4 lbs.

#### SHEEP.

The exhibition of sheep was large, and embraced a fine display of all classes nearly all being well represented with fine compact animals of very superior excellence. We are pleased to notice that more attention is being given to the long-wooled class than has been during the past. J. D. Wing, of Washington, Dutchess county, exhibited very superior Cotswolds, among them we noticed the ram "Golden Fleece," a good illustration of which appeared in our July number. Isaac Aiken, of Beekman, showed two Cotswold rams and five yearling ewes. John Snell, of Edmonton, Canada, had a large number of pure bred Cotswolds, and a fine Leicester ram weighing 340 lbs., which took the first prize at the Provincial Fair of Canada held at Kingston this fall. Of Southdowns, L. L. Lorillard exhibited a large number, from imported stock. G. H. Brown, Washington Hollow, exhibited fourteen head. F. W. Stone, Guelph, Canada, brought over superior Southdowns and Cotswolds. Donald Rob-

ertson, Canada, also showed some fine animals of the Leicester breed, and Wolcott & Campbell excellent specimens of Lincoln, and several pens of Leicesters.

*Merinos.*—Tallmadge & Pierce, Warsaw, showed a fine one-year old ram of Hammond stock. E. P. Irwin, Newmarket, Canada, exhibited a large 5-year old French Merino, which sheared this year 13 1-2 lbs. of washed wool. William Chamberlain, Red Hook, had several pens from his well known flock of Silesian Merinos. J. E. Parker, Whiting, Vt., several well bred animals, among them the ram "Gold Drop," four years old, who sheared this year 25 lbs. 10 oz.; weight of carcass, 108 lbs. Bowker & Bush, Shoreham, Vt., exhibited the well known ram "Kilpatrick," (illustrated above,) which took first prize in the three-year old and over, class. J. B. Lusk, Batavia, exhibited several ewe lambs from Hammond stock.

#### GOATS.

E. B. & C. R. Durkee, Alden, exhibited a dozen Angora goats. His buck sheared 4 lbs. 3 oz. of wool this spring, of superior quality. Mr. Dins-

GROUP OF SOUTHDOWN SHEEP.





more also made a good show of goats, with samples of wool of divers colors.

#### POULTRY.

Upwards of 140 coops were on exhibition. E. A. Wendall, of Albany, the well known poultry breeder, made the largest contribution, having some 26 different varieties, in 38 coops. Most of them were superior birds. He also exhibited coach dogs and rabbits.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, &c.

The display of labor-saving implements was probably never equaled in this or any other State, at any exhibition, and comprised a large number of really useful, practical articles, generally of superior excellence and workmanship. This department was worthy of great attention, and was of incalculable value to every farmer, being a fine opportunity to see every variety of implement and machine for the culture of the soil, gathering and saving of crops, and showing the ease with which all departments of farm and garden work can be done with the help of machinery. The show of mowers and reapers was very creditable, and embraced a large number of valuable machines. Among the horse powers we found Perry's American Horse Power, which has received many new and improved additions. It is worked by an endless chain from a lever power, which passes around a wheel. This wheel consists of irregular and movable cogs, part of which are constantly pressed inwards and a part outwards, keeping the endless chain in its place. It is claimed that six horses with this power can do as much as ten with any other. It was exhibited by Mr. Perry, the originator, and is manufactured by Bralley & Pitts, of Buffalo. R. & M. Harder, of Cobleskill, had on the grounds their two-horse power, which is very simple, runs easy for the horses, and with little noise or friction. This machine was awarded the gold medal at the trial of implements held at Auburn, July, 1866. They also exhibited their thresher and cleaner, which is very compact and of superior workmanship, and does the work in the most satisfactory manner. This also received the gold medal at the Auburn trial. R. L. Howard, of Buffalo, exhibited one and two-horse powers. Burleigh & Bolt, of Spencerport, Wiard & Waldo, of Oakfield, Whiteside, Barnett & Co., of Brockport, the Hoosier Drill Company, of Milton, Ind., and many others exhibited seed drills and plaster sowers. Of hay rakes and hay tedders, a large number were on hand. The Buckeye Mowing Machine Company, of West Fitchburg, Mass., exhibited, a wire tooth horse hay rake which in the opinion of practical farmers was deserving of great credit. S. S. Whitman, of Little Falls, exhibited Bullard's hay ider, well made and finished. Of plows, Wiard

& Waldo, of Oakfield, N. Y., made a large show, as did F. F. Holbrook, Boston, Mass., who exhibited several swivel plows, with both iron and wood beams which work well either in sod or on stubble land, and are adapted to all lands, either level or side hills. With these plows a furrow can be turned twelve inches wide, and ten to twelve inches deep. Also by the same exhibitor, Harrington's combined seed sower and hand cultivator for sowing small seeds. S. R. Wright, Troy, N. Y., exhibited three combined cultivator and hilling plows. They are so conveniently made as to be easily adjusted to rows of any width. Horace Baker, of Cortland, exhibited a combined hay rake and elevator, invented by him. This machine he operated on the grounds to the satisfaction of all who witnessed it. The elevator is attached to the rear of the wagon, and it is claimed that a load can be put on in five minutes. Hiram Lawton, of Rochester, exhibited the Patric Stock Pump, which attracted a large crowd. It took first premium on pumps with favorable notice. B. Randall, Adams, N. Y., brought out a riding attachment for harrows, which is very light and simple, and a great help for lazy drivers. One of the most valuable machines in the collection was the American Corn Husker invented by Messrs. Scott & Farnum, and exhibited by Edward Farnum, of Blackstone, Mass. When this machine comes into general use, the "husking bee" will be a thing of the past. It is a very simple device, and will husk sixty ears by hand power per minute! We saw a deformed ear put in, which was husked clean in a second, and dropped gently below. The ends of the stalks pass between two rollers which breaks off the ear, which falls below, and is at once stripped of the husk. This machine deposits the stalk, husks, and corn in separate piles. This contrivance supplies a great desideratum. Of harrows there were few on the grounds. The American Agricultural Works of New York, exhibited their new rotary harrow which took first premium at the Michigan State Fair this year. It is six feet in diameter, and contains twenty four teeth. D. R. Prindle, of East Bethany, had a choice collection of models. He showed a flexible roller with seat on top for driver. A corn planter for sowing and covering the seed, with a roller attachment for rolling the ground. His steamer and cauldron was shown, but not in operation. We are glad to learn that it is coming into more general use. It appears to be the general opinion that cooking food for stock is a great saving in the item of feeding. A valuable machine for those who feed cut food to stock, was exhibited by E. F. Bishop, of Springville, N. Y. It cuts the hay or straw, which falling below, is mixed with meal from another box, while water from a pipe drops on it and prepares it all ready for steaming. J. R. Robertson, of Syracuse, exhibited

the Excelsior vegetable cutter, which does its work rapidly and well. M. M. Smith, of this city, exhibited the staveless barrel manufactured at 72 Water Street, Brooklyn, which is worthy the attention of oil men and others. They are made of veneer-like slabs laid transversely across each other, and firmly cemented together, making them very strong and durable. Many new and ingenious devices for opening and shutting gates were on hand. The Keystone gate exhibited by H. M. Long, Harris Hill, N. Y., is very simple, durable, and easily operated. Among the churns we found Westcott's adjustable dash churn, and Gibson's atmospheric churn dash, and some others. In proximity were to be found an unlimited number of washing machines, wringing machines, &c., too numerous to mention.

#### FLORAL HALL.

The decoration of Floral Hall was hardly up to that of previous years. The center of the hall was devoted to plants, wax flowers, and the grapes and wine of the Pleasant Valley and Urbana Wine Companies. As usual, the tables around the hall were filled with fruits, although the display was not anything like those which we are in the habit of seeing. In fact, it fell far short of our expectations. From the center of the hall was suspended the American and British flags. This seemed to be all that was attempted in the way of decoration, and were it not for the fine display of greenhouse plants that was exhibited by James Brown, gardener to Hon. Wm. G. Fargo, the center would have been meager enough. To fill up vacant space, lamps, bird cages, and even millinery, was admitted—things which properly belong to the Domestic Hall. No attempt, whatever, was made to clean up the hall or to sprinkle the floor, and the consequence was, the whole place was filled with dust, which settled on fruits and flowers, detracting greatly from their merits. We were sorry to see Monroe county so poorly represented. Messrs. Ellwanger and Barry of the Mount Hope Nurseries, made a fine display of fruits, as did also R. H. Brown, of Greece; but so far as we could find, no other nurserymen of Rochester, except Jacob Moore, (who exhibited the Diana Hamburg grape,) made any display whatever. These gentlemen helped to sustain the prestige of Monroe county, their contributions being very fine, but not more so than they are accustomed to make.

#### PROFESSIONAL.

The next best display was of pears by Dr. Sylvester, of Lyons. One thing which he exhibited is deserving of special notice—a new seedling apple, which he names "the Sylvester." It is below medium size, with a yellow skin, beautifully tinged nearest the sun with a bright rosy cheek. In our estimation it is next best to the Lady apple, the

most beautiful of all our table apples. The flavor is first-rate, being peculiarly new and agreeable.

Dr. Sylvester also exhibited a collection of forty varieties of apples which obtained a second premium. The following are the varieties:—Sweet Bough, Sops of Wine, Egg Top, Pound Sweet, Black Detroit, Keswick Codlin, Maiden's Blush, Twenty Ounce, Ribston Pippin, Fall Orange, Golden Sweet, Hawley, Haskell Sweet, Seneca Favorite, Spice, Bellflower, Northern Sweet, Baldwin, Tompkins County King, Roxbury Russett, R. I. Greening, Black Gilliflower, Wagener, Talman Sweet, English Russett, Spitzenberg, Peck's Pleasant, Northern Spy, Vandevere, Swaar, Golden Russett, Canada Red, Hubbardson Nonsuch, Newark Sweet, Lady Apple, Pomme Gris, Bailey's Sweet, Clyde Beauty, Green Sweet, Jonathan.

Also a collection of twenty, which received a second premium. It comprised the following:—Sweet Bough, Spice, Twenty Ounce, Pound Sweet, Maiden's Blush, Ribston Pippin, Fall Orange, Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Tompkins County King, Northern Spy, Spitzenberg, English Russett, Vandevere, Peck's Pleasant, Talman Sweet, Hubbardson Nonsuch, Golden Russett, Swaar, Black Gilliflower, Roxbury Russett.

And a collection of fifteen varieties of pears which obtained a second premium.

Also a new seedling apple of great merit, and a new seedling white grape, which he claims to be as hardy as the Hartford Prolific. The bunches and berries are about one-quarter larger than the Rebecca; also the Oporto grape, from which the doctor makes his celebrated port wine. Having tasted the latter, we can appreciate its merits.

His collection of pears consisted of the following varieties:—Bartlett, Des Nonnes, Belle Lucrative, Seckel, White Doyenne, Duchess d' Angouleme, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Flemish Beauty, Beurre Diel, Sheldon, Jones Seedling, Onondaga, Howell, Beurre Bachelier, Beurre d' Amantia.

#### AMATEUR.

R. H. Brown, Greece, Monroe county, exhibited three collections of apples, consisting of ten, fifteen, and twenty varieties. The collection of twenty, which was awarded the first premium, was as follows:—Sweet Pearmain, Bailey Sweet, Northern Spy, Peck's Pleasant, Roxbury Russett, Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Golden Russett, Talpa Hawkins, Pound Sweet, Twenty Ounce, Maiden's Blush, Gravenstein, King of Tompkins County, York Pippin, Munson Sweet, St. Lawrence, Ribston Pippin, Hawley, Alexander.

The collection of pears and grapes from Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry was superb. The best twenty varieties of pears which they exhibited, and for

which they obtained the first premium, consisted of the following choice varieties:—Beurre Bosc, Grey Doyenne, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Beurre Clairgeau, Paradise d' Automne, Beurre Gris d' Hiver, Howell, Urbaniste, Winter Nelis, Sheldon, Duchess d' Angouleme, Bartlett, Josephine de Malines, Beurre d' Anjou, Glout Morceau, Seckel, Lawrence, Dix, Flemish Beauty, Beurre Diel.

The best fifteen varieties for which they received the first premium, were:—Beurre d' Anjou, Dix, Beurre Bosc, Grey Doyenne, Winter Nelis, Flemish Beauty, Beurre Clairgeau, Beurre Diel, Lawrence, Josephine d' Malines, Seckel, Duchess d' Angouleme, Howell, Sheldon, Louise Bonne de Jersey.

The first premium which was awarded to them for grapes was for the greatest number and best collection of native grapes. For the varieties see report of Monroe County Fair, page 339.

Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry exhibited some fine plates of Rea's Mammoth Quince.

Godfrey Zimmerman, of Buffalo, made a fine display of fruits. His collection of apples consisted of twelve varieties, namely:—Ohio Fall Greening, Twenty Ounce, Norton's Melon, Hawley, Gravenstein, Hubbardson, Porter, Fall Pippin, Summer Sweet, Paradise, Ribston Pippin, Northern Spy, Baldwin.

Of pears, he exhibited the following:—Beurre Clairgeau, Maria Louise, Beurre Gris d' Hiver, Pratt, Paradise d' Automne, Beurre Superfin, Kingsessing, Alexander Drullard, Seckel, Lodge, Napoleon, Howell, Comtesse de Launay, Beurre d' Anjou, Sheldon, Gray Doyenne, Alexander, Flemish Beauty, Gourd's Bergamot, Beurre Diel, Beurre Gris d' Hiver, Noveau.

Of grapes, the following are the varieties which he exhibited:—Concord, Delaware, Diana, Rebecca, Clinton, Creveling, Hartford Prolific, Isabella, Union Village, To Kalon, Rogers No. 15, Taylor, Iona, and Alvey.

Mr. Hoag, of Lockport, exhibited a good collection of native grapes of standard varieties, namely: Rebecca, Anna, Dracut's Amber, Rogers No. 1, 4, 15, 19, 30, Logan, Union Village, Allen's Hybrid, Delaware, Creveling, Concord, Iona, Israella, To Kalon, Montgomery, Hartford Prolific, Perkins, Diana, Norton's Virginia, Cassidy.

N. Bogue & Bro. exhibited a grape called the Eureka Seedling. Color, black; resembles the Isabella somewhat.

#### AMATEUR LIST.

H. G. Dickerson, Lyons, N. Y., exhibited a collection of fifteen varieties of pears, namely:—Winter Nelis, Beurre Diel, Belle Lucrative, Virgalieu, Duchesse d' Angouleme, Vicar of Winkfield, Beurre Bosc, Beurre Clairgeau, Beurre d' Anjou, Seckel, Sheldon, Onondaga, Gansel's Bergamot, Louise Bonne.

Also a collection of ten varieties, namely:—Onondaga, Sheldon, Beurre Bosc, Beurre Diel, Beurre d' Aremberg, Seckel, Flemish Beauty, Bartlett, Virgalieu, Louise Bonne.

To both of the above collections first premiums were awarded, and they certainly deserved them; in fact, such a display would have been a credit to any professional man.

Benjamin Baker, of East Hamburg, made a fine display of apples, being a collection of twenty varieties, namely:—Sweet Bough, Red Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburg, Gravenstein, Porter, Summer Rose, Hawley, Benoni, Yellow Bellflower, R. I. Greening, Northern Spy, Canada Reinette, Baldwin, English Red Streak, Roxbury Russett, Seek-no-further, Red Canada, Alexander, Twenty Ounce, and Spitzenberg. He also exhibited two other collections of fifteen and ten varieties, for all of which he obtained second premiums.

We noticed a fine collection of pears on this table, but as no owner could be found, or exhibitor's name attached, we are compelled to pass them by.

Enoch Thomas, Buffalo, exhibited Delaware and Concord grapes which were very fine.

The Pleasant Valley Fruit Grower's Association exhibited of grapes, the Isabella, Creveling, Diana, Rebecca, Delaware, To Kalon, Concord, Clinton, Catawba, Lydia, Allen's Hybrid, Israella, Schuylkill or Cape, Iona. Neither the Diana or Catawba were fully ripe.

In the amateur list, Robert Bell, West Brighton, Monroe county, N. Y., exhibited six varieties of pears, to which were awarded the first premium.

M. P. Bush, Buffalo, first premium for foreign grapes—three plates of Muscat, of Alexandria, and three bunches of Black Hamburg, which were very fine.

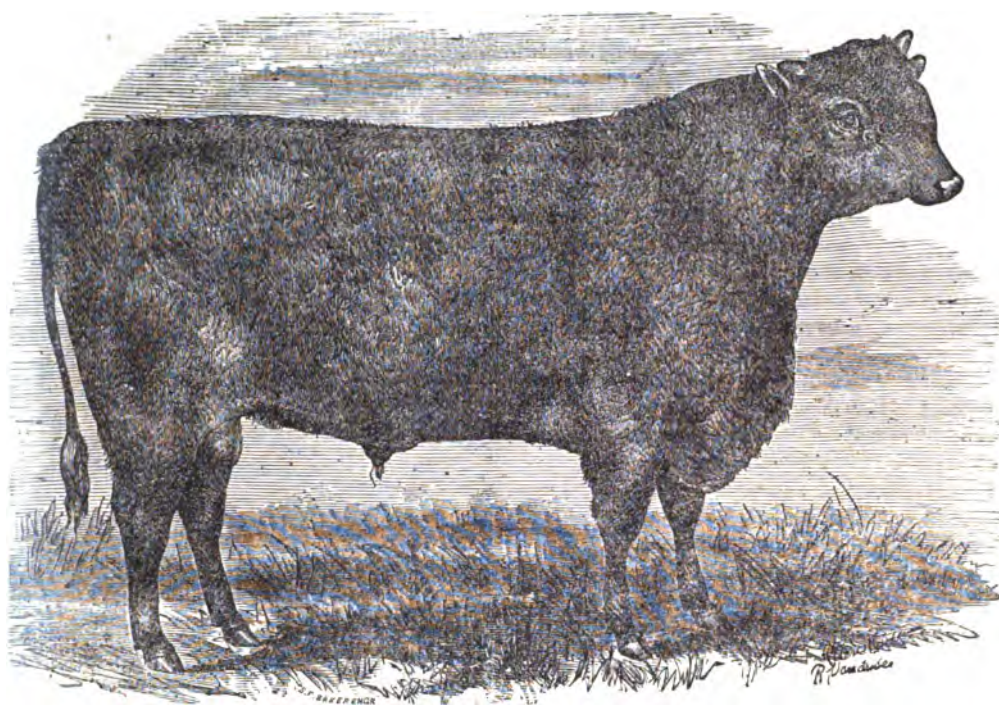
Richard Bullymore, Buffalo, second premium for foreign grapes—one dish of Black Hamburg, Golden Hamburg, Rose Chasselas, Royal Muscadine, West's St. Peters.

J. Crane, Lockport, exhibited fourteen varieties of native grapes, as follows:—Concord, Israella, Creveling, Hartford Prolific, Rogers, 4, 15, 19, 39, Iona, Isabella, Delaware, Rebecca, Lydia, Diana.

Jacob Moore, East Brighton, Monroe county, exhibited the Diana-Hamburg grape. The bunch was large, and had all the appearance of a Black Hamburg, both in size and flavor; but the berries were not so highly colored as the Hamburg.

J. M. McCulloch, Cincinnati, exhibited Ives Seedling, said to be an excellent wine grape in the locality where it is grown.

The Pleasant Valley Wine Company exhibited several brands of native wines: Empire and Sparkling Exposition, Champagne, Sweet and Dry Catawba, red and pale Isabella, Delaware, and Diana, and Catawba brandy.



**DEVON BULL CALF, "EMPIRE 6th," at 8 Months Old.**

Bred by Walter Cole, Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y.

The Urbana Wine Company exhibited Urbana and Imperial, Champagne and Catawba brandy.

#### FLOWERS.

The fine display of greenhouse plants from the plant houses of Hon. William G. Fargo, and M. P. Bush, Esq., of Buffalo, contributed greatly to the attractions of Floral Hall. The fine specimens exhibited by James Brown, gardener to Hon. Wm. G. Fargo, were many of them quite rare. His collection comprised the following varieties:—*Gymnostachium*, *Verschaffelti*, a very fine specimen; *Cyanophyllum Magnificum*, *Yucca Vairegata*, *Croton Var Rubrum*, *Diefenbachia Picta*, *Dracena*, *Spectabilis Marginata*, *Cyperus Alternifolia*, *Latania Barbonica*, *Platyserium Grande*, *Maranta Zebrina*, *Aralia Leptophylla*, *Philodendron Pertusum*, *Bonapartica Juneca*, *Dracena Fanea*, *Dicksonia*, *Antartica*, *Anastasia Sativa Variegata*, *Croton Variegatum*, *Aspidistia Lucida Yucca*, *Alocifolia*, *Hoya*, *Carnoso Begonia Philadelphia*, *Dioscorea Discolor*, *Farfugium Grande*, *Calladium Baraquineii*, *Calladium Whiteji*, *Calladium Chantieceii*, *Calladium Bicolor*, *Pandanus Variegata*, *Alocassia Metallica*.

M. P. Bush's gardener made a good display of cut flowers, and also exhibited the following specimen plants:—*Yucca Variegata*, *Hoya Carnosa*, *Begonia*, *Hydrangea Variegata*, *Coleus Atrosanguinea*, *Coleus Verschaffelti*.

Mrs. Mary Soule, of Hamburg, Erie county, exhibited some splendid boquets for hand and table, which elicited a good deal of praise for the taste displayed in their arrangement. Also a collection of Dahlias which received a second premium. A collection of Asters, first premium; a collection of Verbenas, first premium; a collection of Phloxes, first premium.

Mrs. Lenke, of Buffalo, exhibited a collection of China and Bourbon Roses, which were awarded a second premium; a collection of Pansies, second premium; and one box of Phlox Drummondii, second premium. Also collections of Pansies, Petunias, Dahlias, Phloxes, Stocks, and Asters. These two lady exhibitors contributed greatly to the display of flowers. The other amateur contributors made but little display, there being but a few plants from each.

Mr. Prott exhibited one Isabella grape vine with four bunches of grapes on it which were grown in a room; also two very fine Coxcombs, and Frederick Weymer, three very fine specimens of Cactus.

—♦♦♦—  
**TO PRESERVE CIDER.**—To one barrel of cider, put in one pound of mustard seed, two pounds of raisins, and one-fourth pound sticks (bark) of cinnamon.—*Maine Farmer*.



### MONROE COUNTY FAIR.

THE Annual Exhibition of this Society was held September 26-28, and proved a success in some departments, while others were sadly deficient. The display of stock of all kinds was unusually small, and we did not see an animal that could show pure breeding. It is time the farmers of our county awoke to the importance of importing thoroughbred stock to cross with our natives. Of sheep, there were a few pens of good long wools, by S. H. Barrons, of Irondequoit, and John Lynch, of West Brighton.

*Implements, machinery, &c.*, made a tolerable show, Warner's sulky revolving rake, was exhibited by C. C. Holton. The Chicago grain separator and cleaner by E. C. Patterson, which does the work in a very satisfactory manner. Two or three different potato planters were on exhibition, among which we noticed one by Mr. Kintz, of Henrietta. J. H. Graves, exhibited his patent farm gate, which is becoming very popular, and gaining rapidly in favor with all who have used it. Graves' movable comb, moth detective hive, also attracted a crowd anxious to learn something new about hives. A new portable fence was exhibited by B. and V. Corkins, of Varysburg, which is constructed of a number of slats placed crosswise, forming a set of diamond shaped pannels. It is easily made, costs little, and is very durable and strong. The American Basket Company of New Britain, Conn., had samples of their improved basket and crate for marketing all kinds of small fruits, which supplies a want long needed. But it is to Flora and Pomona that we must look as supplying the principal attraction at this fair.

The display of fruits and flowers on this occasion was fully up to anything that we have ever seen at our county fairs; in fact the display of grapes has never been equaled at any of our county exhibitions.

#### FLORAL HALL.

Floral Hall, formerly Domestic Hall, was very tastefully arranged. A noticeable feature in this department was the covering of the sides with evergreens. In connection with this subject, we cannot but think that the executive officers of this Society would do well in future years to appropriate a sufficient sum to defray the expenses of decorating Floral Hall in a befitting manner. The horticultural interests of this county are of such magnitude that the Society ought to encourage the exhibitors in the most liberal manner. Hitherto the Superintendent has had to depend upon contributions of exhibitors for fitting up and decorating the hall both on State and County occasions. Inasmuch as Floral Hall is one of the principal features at all our fairs, it cannot be asking too much of the Society to devote a small portion of the large premiums which they are

accustomed to give to horses for the purposes we have mentioned. If our fairs are to become simply horse fairs, let them be called such; but if Flora and Pomona are to contribute of their treasures to the fair, the Society should reciprocate. Let it not in the future be said that our nurserymen and florists have lost all interest in our fairs, because the encouragement given them by the Society is so exceedingly small.

But we are happy to say that considering the time allowed for the preparations, the arrangements were good, and reflected the highest credit on the Superintendent in charge of the Hall. The lower floor of the Hall was devoted to flowers. James Vick made a fine display of cut flowers. The most noticeable plants and flowers in his collection were a very fine plant of the Ricinus or Castor Oil bean, one or two specimens of the Tagetes, Signata Pumila which were a dense mass of flowers—very fine; also Celosia Spicata Rosea, the new striped corn; Japan lilies, very delicate in their markings and very showy; Tritomas, Coxcombs, Pansies. There were extra fine Petunias, Phloxes, Antirrhinums, Asters, Balsams, Zinnias—these were superb. Verbenas and Gladiolus—the latter made a fine show.

Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry made a fine display of cut flowers. Among Hybrid Perpetual Roses, we noticed some superb blooms of Gen. Jacquiminot, brilliant crimson scarlet; Gen. Washington, fine dark crimson, a superb rose; Marshal Valliere, pink; Tromphe del Exposition, crimson; Alexander Bachmeteff, bright rose.

Teas. Of this most delightful class of roses we noticed: Sombreuil, creamy white, with a rosy tint; Glory of Dijon, yellow shade, with salmon and rose, a superb sort; La Pactole, lemon yellow; Souvenir d'un Ami, rose and salmon; Bourbon Roses—Souvenir de la Malmaison, flesh color, with a fawn shade, large and fine.

They exhibited also some fine blooms of Dahlias; we say fine, but use the term in a qualified sense, because the season has been so dry that it proved very unfavorable for the perfecting of Dahlia blooms. Taking this into consideration, we consider they were fine, though not so large and full as they would have been had the season proved less dry.

Among specimen plants we noticed a fine plant of Latonia Barbonica, Calladiums, of several varieties, very beautiful. Anthericum Regale, Alocasia Metallica, and Maranta Pulchella, the collection of flowers from this establishment was very fine.

Mr. Wilder, of Greece, exhibited a good assortment of apples.

James Edmonds exhibited six varieties of grapes, of which the bunches were large, berries fine, and uniform in size.

Jacob Moore, of Brighton, exhibited a fine specimen of the Diana-Hamburg grape. The bunch was large, and the berries of fair size. This grape exhibits some of the characteristics of the Black Hamburg, one of its parents. It was raised from seed of the Diana impregnated with the Black Hamburg, hence its name. In flavor it nearly equals the Black Hamburg, but the berries are much lighter in color. See engraving in horticultural department.

The upper part of the Hall was devoted to fruits. The principal and largest contributors to this department were Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, Frost & Co., and R. H. Brown, of Greece. The display of pears and grapes by Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry was remarkably fine. Seldom, if ever, can we remember having seen a finer assortment of those fruits from any one establishment, than on this occasion. The following are the varieties of pears:—Urbaniste, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Sheldon, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Oswego Beurre, Beurre d'Anjou, Beurre Bosc, Beurre Miorn, Paradise d'Automne, Nantais, Van Mons Leon le Clerc, White Doyenne, Beurre d'Eyres, Beurre Clairgeau, Baronne de Mello, Seckel, Bartlett, Van Asasche, Howell, Gansel's Bergamot, Barry, Lodge, Gratiote of Jersey, Calebasse Montreux' Dix, Beurre Gris d'Hiver, Columbia, Edmunds, Bezi des Veterans, Chaptal, Vicar of Winkfield, Glout Morceau, Flemish Beauty, America, Doyenne Goubault, Lawrence, Winter Nelis, Josephine d'Malines, Beurre Superfin, Jalouse d'Fontenay.

The show of grapes was superb, and their collection included the fine hybrids of Mr. Rogers which were designated by the following numbers, namely: 2, 4, 5, 9, 15, 30, 33, 36, 41, 42, 43, 44. Of white grapes they showed the Lydia, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Taylor's Bullit, Anna, Cuyahoga, and King. Also Diana, Catawba, Perkins, Delaware, Venango, Diacutes Amber, Canby's August, To Kalon, Garrigues, Concord, Miller's Burgundy, Logan, Union Village, Payn's Early, Hyde's Eliza, Clinton, Adirondac, Bensen's Early, Creveling, Isabella, Hartford Prolific, Norton's Virginia, Marion, and Alvey, a wine grape.

Frost & Co. exhibited a large and fine collection of grapes, consisting mostly of the following varieties: Diana, Delaware, Concord, Hartford Prolific, Isabella, Rogers Hybrids Nos. 1, 5, 9, 13, 15, 19, 30, 33, 39, 42, 43, 44, Clinton, Garrigues, Louisa, Taylor's Bullit, Herbemont, Blood's White, Anna, Blood's Black, Perkins, To Kalon, Rebecca.

R. H. Brown, of Greece, exhibited 53 varieties of apples, among which the following varieties were very fine, namely:—Twenty Ounce, King of Tompkins County, Alexander, Hawley, Gravenstein, Sweet Pearmain, Maiden's Blush, Ribston Pippin, St. Lawrence, and York Pippin.

Frost & Co. contributed largely of cut flowers:

among them we noticed their new Petunia, Edward Beck. This sustains its reputation, and we see no reason for altering the opinion we formed of it at the June exhibition. Their show of Dahlias was very good considering the dry weather which the plants have had to sustain during the past summer. One other Petunia also attracted our attention. A seedling of theirs, a single variety called Mrs. Frost, which is quite promising. Among the specimen plants exhibited by this firm was a fine plant of Calladium Esculentum also an Aphelandra Leopoldii, a Saccharinum Arundinaceum, a plant of Aralia Japonica, and a splendid specimen of the Emperor of Fuschias.

George Beck, of Charlotte, exhibited of grapes—Diana, Delaware, Catawba, Sweet Water, Rebecca, Concord, Clinton, Isabella.

H. De Jongh, of Rochester, exhibited six fine bunches, of grapes, very uniform in size, called the Guelderland, but which in our opinion is identical with Sweetwater. For out-door specimens these were very good.

Geo. Frauenberger, engraver and printer of colored fruits and flower plates, exhibited some very fine specimens in this line. A colored plate of Dr. Nicaise strawberry, attracted considerable attention among fruit growers, as did also a very fine plate of the Wiegelia variegated, besides several others, which show unmistakably the rapid advancement which is now being made in this direction through the enterprise of our leading nurserymen.

*Vegetable Hall* was well filled with fine specimens of vegetables, G. Bahringer, West Brighton, being the principal exhibitor. He exhibited 68 different varieties, while Mr. Cox, of Wheatland, takes the lead for the greatest number of different kinds of potatoes which comprised the following thirty-two varieties:—Peachblow, White Peachblow, Red California, White California, Monitor, Shakers' Fancy, Calico, Pinkeye, Rusty Coat, Black Mercer, Purple Mercer, Seedling Mercer, Ohio Mercer, Michigan White Sprout, Dykeman, Early June, Garnet Chili, Buckeye, Manly, Irish Cup, Early Gooderich, Kidney, English Fluke, Mexican, Davis' Seedling, Fancy Red, Western Red, Blue Pinkeye, Dutch Pink-eye, Long Pinkeye, Round Pinkeye, Jackson White, English White. He states that of the different varieties named, the Mercer seedling is the best in quality, but the yield is light and liable to rot. For the main crop, Peachblow has been the most reliable for a few years past, but now does not yield like some of the new varieties. For a very early potato he has found the Michigan White Sprout to far exceed all others in yield. A week earlier than anything found, not excepting Early Gooderich. The Monitor, he thinks, will take the place of the Peachblow, yielding far better, two weeks earlier, full a

good quality, and less labor to dig, yielding fifty bushels more to the acre the present season than the Peachblow.

Of cheese, the only exhibitor was our esteemed correspondent, F. W. Collins, who showed some superb specimens of Cheddar cheese, second to none in the country. Great care and attention is given to the manufacture of this cheese, and we hope soon to give full particulars in regard to its make.

The attendance on the third day was very large, and the receipts must have been very satisfactory to the Managers of the Society.

### OUR EASTERN LETTER--No. 8.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT, BELFAST, MAINE.

MESSEURS. EDs.:—I suppose it is time that I posted you and your readers upon agricultural matters in this section. The severe farm labors are nearly finished for the year, the latest harvests are being gathered in, and the annual farmer's festivals—fairs and cattle shows, attended. We can now look back upon the season's labors, and by the returns judge of its profitableness. We have reason to be satisfied. Our crops have been very good, though not so heavy as some previous years, and the weather has been equal to the average. For all of which let us be thankful, thankfully accept the present, and hope for the future.

The summer and part of the autumn was what is termed a rainy year. More water fell during three months than the yearly average. Since the first of September there has been but little rain, and at this writing, (October 1,) the ground is quite dry, wells low, &c.

The hay crop was heavy—some would say enormous. At any rate, it was the best ever known in this State, and was generally got in in good order. The barns are filled to bursting. This heavy crop was caused principally by the wet season and the preceding favorable winter. A large amount of rowen or aftermath, was secured in good condition, which makes a fine addition to the farmer's stock of forage. Considerable lowland grass was uncut on account of the flooding by water. Hay, loose, brings \$10 to \$12 per ton here.

Potatoes will be only about two-thirds an average crop. The rust "struck" the tops early, and stopped the growth of the tubers. Owing to the dry weather they are troubled but little by the rot. Maine will not have so many potatoes for export as usual. The varieties almost wholly grown are Footes, Sebecs, and Jacksons, all white. They bring from 55c to 75c per bushel in this market now.

The grain crop was pretty fair. Oats turned out all, barley fair, wheat fair. Corn is generally quite

good, and those who raise quite an amount are among the lucky ones. In this market oats are 75c; barley, \$1.25; corn, \$1.45 per bushel. Of wheat, there is none in the market. Rye is also scarce.

The yield of peas and beans is not so large as usual, especially of beans, which have fallen off considerably—rusting badly. Beans are now from \$3.50 to \$4.50 a bushel, with a prospect of being still higher.

Fruit, especially apples, is almost an entire failure; in fact there are no apples worth mentioning raised in this section. They range from 75c to \$1.50 per bushel, according to quality, and next January will see them treble that price. I hardly know to what cause to ascribe the general failure of the apple crop. Some think it was caused by the heavy continued rains during the blossoming season. Grapes are very backward in ripening. Plums scarce. The small fruits were all very plenty and productive, especially those growing wild. Many thousand bushels of blackberries were picked in this State, and consumed at home and abroad; prices ranged from 8c to 15c for the pickers. Maine may challenge the world in producing a blackberry crop.

Stock is plenty and not in quick demand, except for calves and yearlings. Spring calves sell from \$25 to \$45 a yoke, and scarce at that. Yearling steers girthing five feet, from \$60 to \$75. Yearling heifers \$25 and \$30. Beef is rather dull at \$9 to \$12 per hundred. The demand for working oxen and cows is not great; prices nominal. Sheep are plenty and quiet as to demand. They average about \$3 a head alive. Mutton, 7c to 8c per pound; pelts, 60c to 85c each. Dairy products low, but promise a rise. Good ball butter is plenty at 25c to 28c; firkin, 20c to 25c. The fall feed is excellent as to quantity, but butter makers say poor in quality.

The first frosts of the season were on the nights of September 14th, 22d, and 23d, which killed vegetation only on low ground and secluded places. The weather during the harvest season has been very good.

Most of the county agricultural exhibitions in this State came off during the first two weeks of October. They were generally very well attended and patronized, but I am sorry to say too many of them make the horse interest too prominent, and horse racing and its attendant immoralities is carried on to a great extent. We hope for better things in the future, and that farmers will wake up and take their own business from out of the hands of the jockies.

But my letter has already reached its limit, and tendering my respects to the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER, I will close.

A valuable market report—see this number.



**ROAN PRINCE 6370-VOL. 7, A. H. B.**

The property of Joseph A. Harwood, Littleton, Mass. Winner of the Sweepstakes Prize offered by the Middlesex County Agricultural Society, at Concord, September, 1886, for the best bull of any breed. Also winner of the First Prize as the best Shorthorn bull, by the same Society.

**SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.****Barnyard Manure.**

At a meeting of a farmers' club of Pennsylvania, the report of whose proceedings appears in *The Germantown Telegraph*, the following opinion was sustained in regard to barnyard manure:

That the manure in that portion of the yard which is open should be thrown under shelter before the cattle are let out to pasture, that they, by tramping over it, will pack it so as to exclude the air, and thus prevent firefanging or burning; that at different periods during the winter plaster and common salt should be sown over the yard, especially where there are cornstalks, in quantities at the option of the farmer, and that too much cannot (within the bounds of reason) be applied. That not a drop of the liquid should be allowed to escape from the yard, which should, if possible, slope towards the middle from all directions, and be there well supplied with absorbents to prevent evaporation and keep it clean. That, supposing no increase of the value of the manure should arise from sheltering it, the increased ease of loading will more than repay the cost of throwing under shelter.

That, for general field culture, the horse manure should be mixed with the other, and not deposited in a yard or corner by itself, because this manure will heat and lose its ammonia more readily than other kinds of manure, and by mixing it with others this loss is avoided. That plaster should be used in the horse stables in large quantities, both for the sake of cleanliness and economy. That quick lime should be kept as far as possible from the manure.

**Standard of Excellence in Fine Poultry.**

We give below the true points of the genuine Brahma Pootra fowl, adopted as the standard of excellence by the English Poultry Club:

The Brahmas are now very popular, and recognized generally as combining more desirable qualities than any other single breed. It is therefore important to be able to distinguish the genuine from that founded on perhaps one or two crosses. We have often been called to view Brahmas, with large single upright combs, without feathers on the legs, which were also of a light color. It will be observed, these points are considered important, and when not right, amount to disqualifications. The feathered legs also belong to the Cochins, and we believe are characteristic of East India breeds.

**BRAHMAS—GENERAL SHAPE—COCK.**

*Beak*—Very strong, taper, and well curved.

*Comb*—Pea, small, low in front and firm on the head, without falling over on either side, distinctly divided, so as to have the appearance of three small combs joined together in the lower part and back, the largest in the middle, each part slightly and evenly serrated.

*Head*—Small and slender.

*Eye*—Prominent and bright.

*Deaf-ear*—Large and pendent.

*Wattles*—Small, well rounded on the lower edge.

*Neck*—Long, neatly curved, slender near the head, the juncture very distinct, hackle full and abundant, ring well over the shoulders.

*Breast*—Very full, broad, and round; carried well forward.

*Back*—Short, broad, flat betwixt the shoulders; saddle feathers very abundant.

*Wings*—Small; the primaries doubled well under the secondaries, the points covered by the saddle feathers.

*Tail*—Small; carried very upright, the higher feathers spreading out laterally.

*Tail Coverts*—Broad, very abundant, soft, and curved over the tail.

*Thighs*—Very large and strong; abundantly covered with very soft, fluffy feathers, curving inward round the hock, so as to hide the joint from view. Vulture hocks are objectionable, but not a disqualification.

*Fluff*—Very abundant and soft, covering the hind parts, and standing out about the thighs, giving the bird a very broad and deep appearance behind.

*Legs*—Rather short, strong, and bony; standing well apart, very abundantly feathered down the outside to the end of the toes.

*Toes*—Strait and strong; the outer and middle toe being abundantly feathered.

*Carriage*—Very upright and strutting.

**GENERAL SHAPE—HEN.**

*Beak*—Strong, curved and taper.

*Comb*—Pea, very small and low, placed in front of the head, and having the appearance of three very small serrated combs pressed together, the largest in the middle.

*Head*—Small and slender.

*Eye*—Prominent and bright.

*Deaf-ear*—Large and pendent.

*Wattles*—Small, rounded on the lower edge.

*Neck*—Rather short, neatly curved, slender near the head, the juncture very distinct, full, and broad in the lower part; the feathers reaching well on to the shoulders.

*Breast*—Very deep, round, broad, and prominent.

*Back*—Broad and short; the feathers of the neck reaching to betwixt the shoulders, and abundance of soft, broad feathers rising to the tail.

*Wings*—Small; the bow covered by the breast feathers, the primaries doubled well under the secondaries, the points of the wings clipped well into the abundance of soft feathers and fluff.

*Tail*—Small, very upright, almost buried in the soft rump feathers.

*Thighs*—Strong and well covered with very soft feathers, curving round the hock so as to hide the joint from view; vulture hocks are objectionable, but not a disqualification.

*Fluff*—Very abundant and soft, standing about the hind part and thighs, giving the bird a very broad and deep appearance behind.

*Legs*—Short, very strong, wide apart, abundantly feathered on the outside to the toes.

*Toes*—Strait and strong, the outer and middle toe being well feathered.

*Carriage*—Low in comparison to the cock.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS.**

Birds not matching in the pen; combs not uniform

in the pen, or falling over to one side; crooked backs; legs not feathered to the toes, or of any other color except yellow or dusky yellow.

#### Sunflower Seed.

Those who have sunflower seed going to waste, says *The Rural New Yorker*, will find it to their advantage to feed it to their fowls. Where poultry raising is made a speciality it will pay well to raise sunflower seed for feeding the fowls. They will eat it in preference to corn.

#### Change of Cotton Seeds.

A correspondent of the Agricultural Department, writing from Henderson county, Texas, says: "I know from experience that a change of cotton seed, much more than climate, affects the quality and quantity of the crop produced. Let any one who cultivates sandy land, where the cotton stalks grow tall, (and it grows as the timber grows,) exchange cotton seed every two or three years with his neighbor who cultivates stiff, limy land, where the cotton spreads and the joints are short, and both parties will be convinced of the advantage. A stranger, the first year, could point out the row where the exchanged seeds begin. The same is equally true of corn, wheat, rye, and barley."

#### Mutton Sheep upon Dairy Farms.

Some of our dairy farmers, says X. A. Willard, in the *Utica Herald*, are discussing the question of keeping sheep in connection with the dairy. The first question usually asked is—"What is the most profitable sheep for me to keep?" The answer to this question must be determined in a great measure by the soil, climate, and market where the farmer is located. The sheep husbandry that may be most profitable in Texas may not be equally so in New York. In a thickly populated country where land is expensive, and at the present prices of wool, we must look beyond mere wool production to make sheep husbandry pay. There may be local causes affecting single farms that have their influence in determining what kind of sheep to employ. Rough, hilly farms, with but little arable land in proportion to the pasture will be better adapted to a small, hardy race of sheep, while farms that have better pastures and higher culture can maintain a larger meat-producing breed. In the central counties of New York there is, and always will be, a good market for mutton, and there is nothing in the way of our producing good wool and good mutton, since our soil and climate seem well adapted to the usual breeds of sheep. Of the different breeds of English sheep, the Lincolns, the Cotswolds, the Leicester, and the Downs, each has its advocates, and each combines those qualities which render them profitable, both for meat and wool. But if the farmer proposes to grow meat and wool for the market, it is not imperative in making his selection, that he should strictly adhere to pure bred animals, in order to have a good flock. In making up a flock, if good sized sheep be selected, having good constitutions and heavy fleeces, and then breeding from them, using a pure bred male of either the breeds named, that he wishes his flock assimilated to, there is little danger of falling in good results. This course we found

pursued often in England, the inferior sheep of the flock being sold for mutton, and by adhering to the system for a few years, a flock of great excellence, both as to wool and meat, is obtained. There can be but little doubt that a large number of mutton sheep is needed in the dairy districts of New York, and with such a good market for mutton as is presented in the central counties of the State, it is pretty certain that small flocks of English sheep upon dairy farms may be made remunerative. The experiment is well worth trying, and we are glad to see some of our best farmers agitating the question at this time.

#### A Good Yield.

Mr. F. Hurdon informs the *Kindardine (Canada) Review*, that on 18 acres he reaped this year, 783 bushels of good fall wheat. One field containing 9 acres, which was earliest sown, averaged 47 bushels to the acre; and the other nine acres averaged 40.

#### Remedy for Lice on Cabbage.

A correspondent in *The Rural American* says there is a remedy for destroying lice on cabbage, as follows:—When the cabbages are about the size of a dining plate, take a half teaspoonful of fine salt and scatter it over each. Repeat about once in ten days, gradually increasing the dose to a tablespoonful if necessary.

#### Potatoes.

European countries grow quite as many potatoes as America. France has this year 2,040,364 acres planted with them, and Austria 1,308,148 acres. Ireland, the great potato country, reports 1,050,419 acres. In Bavaria there are 649,735 acres; in Great Britain, 498,843 acres; in Belgium, 369,850 acres; in Sweden, 334,000 acres; in Holland, 265,987 acres; in Wurtemberg, 167,948 acres; and in Denmark proper, 69,176 acres.

#### Keeping up Cows.

Colman's *Rural World* gives sundry reasons why stock, especially that of the dairy character should be well fed and cared for during the autumnal months. It is sufficient to say that good care and liberal feeding at this season fit cows to encounter the rigors of winter successfully, but more especially do they conduce to a liberal and rich flow of milk, thus improving the character and increasing the quantity of the butter product. A free use of pumpkins and roots, with their tops, and an occasional mash treat, will amply repay the cost of the articles, and richly remunerate the farmer for his trouble in supplying them. Autumn being emphatically the butter season, milch cows then, if ever, deserve extra care and consideration.

#### Young Colts.

A contributor to *The Farmer's Advertiser* says that by feeding young colts a considerable amount of grain, in conjunction with hay and other light articles of food, they thrive better, and their limbs become better knit than if fed only on light food. If a proper supply of food be withheld while an animal is young, it will be injured in its constitution, and consequently in its value, to a far greater extent than any saving that can be effected in its feed.

Something Interesting on page 360.

## Horticultural.

### MEETING OF THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

(Continued from page 315.)

It was objected that the discussion was wandering from its province relating to small fruits, and a member called upon Dr. Knox, of Pittsburg, as "prophet and preacher," to relate his experience in the culture and marketing of the strawberry.

Dr. Knox had some experience in transporting strawberries. Some kinds would better sustain carriage, and these he selected for shipment, picking them only when ripe, and taking only perfect ones, and with the hulls on. He sent in pint boxes and quart boxes, and had entire success. The Jucunda he found would bear best to be carried. Had sent them four hundred miles to New York, and on one occasion had them kept there after their arrival for experiment, to see how long they would keep fresh. They were kept several days, and then were sold for more than the Wilson's Albany would bring. Other good carrying fruits were the Triomphe de Gand, and the Fillmore.

Mr. Hooker, New York, dwelt with emphasis upon the fact, now shown, that for remuneration good varieties must be selected, and must be well cultivated.

The subject of

#### RASPBERRIES

was called up. After some delay in starting the discussion,

Mr. Dunlap, Ill., moved a resolution "that for all practical purposes all the 'ever bearing raspberries,' so called, are of little value."

Mr. Phoenix judged the resolution to be wrong in spirit and in fact. He would have fruits produced all the year round if possible, and if they could not all the time be produced by the bushel, the production in the fall ought still to be encouraged.

Mr. Dubois said that in one fall he had picked ten bushels of raspberries.

Mr. Hooker thought that at least there was no need to condemn the culture of the ever-bearing kind.

Mr. Parry had considerably cultivated the Catawissa, but it failed him, and he at length abandoned it.

Mr. Dunlap said that while not wholly condemning the culture, his resolution simply characterized them as "of little value," and every speaker had substantially corroborated this. He had traveled much over the country, and been regaled with the best fruits everywhere, but at no place had a plate of ever-bearing raspberries been set before him. Yet, as he had no animosity against the berry, and as many people had the plants to sell, he would withdraw the resolution.

An Iowa member thought that Mr. Dunlap could not have traveled much in Iowa, or he would have feasted on the berries in question.

Mr. Dunlap had been in Iowa, and would visit the people and do justice to any such feast, if provided.

Mr. Campbell enlogized the Clark raspberry as the best of the Antwerp family of raspberries, and especially as having to his knowledge, sustained very severe degrees of cold without injury.

Mr. Parry also indorsed the Clark as hardy, of good growth and size, and highly delicious.

A member asked if the Clark resembled the Belle de Fontaine. The President said it did not. Dr. Knox was emphatic to the same effect.

To an inquiry, Mr. Campbell said that the Clark had not only survived severest cold, but the vines afterwards bore fruit, and much fruit.

Mr. Trowbridge, Connecticut, said that the foliage, as well as the vines of the Clark, sustained severe frost, and the fruit was delicious.

Mr. Bronson, New York, had seen the Clark in Mr. Clark's own ground, and had also himself cultivated it, and all that had been said for it he could indorse. He thought it would supersede all other varieties of the Antwerp class.

Mr. Phoenix said he had found the Philadelphia raspberry hardy, and an enormous bearer, but deficient in flavor.

Mr. Sylvester, New York, remarked that the hardiness of the Philadelphia was unquestionable. He had had it live when the cherry, the plum, the peach, and other fruits, had been killed by the frost.

Mr. Bateman, of New York, said he once closed a report by saying that we still wanted a hardy raspberry of first quality, and it was recommended to him to try the Clark. He did so, and then said, and now said, that the hardy raspberry of first class was still wanting unless the Clark were it.

Mr. Williams, of New Jersey, after four years experience with the Philadelphia, found it very productive, of fair size, and in quality third-rate.

Mr. Barry remarked that in defense against frost, the vines must be laid down in the winter.

Mr. Campbell had covered the tender varieties, but this made them start too early in spring.

The President held that all the varieties, especially in New England and New York, must be laid down in winter, and the crop was then sure.

Mr. Downey said the raspberry had to his knowledge yielded a net profit of over \$500, sometimes \$1,000 to the acre.

Mr. Stevens, Mo., asked if the Clark had succeeded in the West as well as in the East.

A member said that if Sandusky, O., was in the West, the Clark had succeeded there also.

Mr. Hoag, N. Y., spoke of an Antwerp hybrid of extreme hardiness and productiveness.

Mr. Trimble, N. J., praised the Doolittle raspberry as early, hardy, productive, and of fine flavor.

Mr. Bronson, N. Y., said that Mr. Doolittle is bringing out another variety, equally good, but ripening a week later, and named by him the Seneca.

Mr. Parry, of New Jersey, said that the Doolittle was highly prized in that State as earlier than the Miami. He had twenty acres of the Doolittle, having discarded other kinds after trial. His crop was usually a hundred bushels per acre.



## BLACKBERRIES.

The Kittatinny, introduced and disseminated by E. Williams of Montclair, N. J., was pronounced by Mr. Weir to be hardy and productive in his part of Illinois.

Dr. Edwards, of Missouri, found it earlier by a week than the Lawton, about as productive and of more value.

Mr. Kauffman, Iowa, wished Eastern men to say how the Kittatinny among them compares with the Lawton.

Mr. Parry, of New Jersey, had grown them side by side for five years, and found the former hardier and generally better. The Lawton would sometimes be larger—not finer. The Kittatinny will discolor with transportation—yet less than the Lawton.

A member had found the Kittatinny much the hardier, surviving the cherry, peach, and plum in frost. The Lawton is peculiarly acid, but when it is canned, and in winter, he is sick who cannot eat it. It cans best after the peach. But the Kittatinny is best for the table, and is earlier than the Wilson.

Mr. Stevens, Mo., remarked that the Lawton is valuable for persistent ripening, furnishing ripe fruit not all at once, but continuously. He asked if this could be said for the Kittatinny.

There were several and contradictory answers, some members having one kind of experience in the matter, and others another kind.

Mr. Trowbridge instanced a remarkable case of successful cultivation in his State, (Connecticut), where the ground was kept particularly moist, and the plants bore largely, and fruit of large size. They were cut in September. The ground was well mulched. The plants became strong and self-supporting.

After further discussion,

## GOOSEBERRIES

were called up.

Mr. Trimble found all the varieties to become mildewed except the American.

Mr. Hooker found the Downing seedling very superior, an inch in diameter, ripening finely, abundant in foliage and in crop.

Mr. Manning so found them. They were oval, of a light bloom, and large.

A member found them satisfactory when in fruit, but his had been five years in fruiting.

Mr. Hooker said this could not be of the kind he had. There were two kinds. No. 1 is larger and better than No. 2, has a pale amber fruit, is erect, with the ends of the branches drooping, and its productiveness increasing with age. It does not bear well when young.

Mr. Williams, N. J., described the two varieties.

The discussion passed to

## CURRENANTS.

Mr. Bateman, N. Y., had learned to appreciate this fruit, as once he did not, and had found that it was rarely well grown. When well cultivated it had merits too little known, being useful as a promoter of health in summer, and wonderfully palatable in the right season. Nor should the cost of sugar necessary to sweeten it be an objection, for sugar is itself nutritious and is healthier, especially for children, than meat. It is time

the people were educated to appreciate the currant, to cultivate and ripen it, and understand its great worth.

Mr. Phoenix, Ill., asked for the most productive kinds.

Mr. Bateman—The White Grape and the Versailles.

The President thought the latter far superior to other varieties.

Mr. Trimble said there was a popular prejudice against the use of the fruit and against its culture, and the mistake was that the currants were picked too soon.

Mr. Williams thought the fruit had been strangely overlooked and underrated. Its acidity came at exactly the right season for health. Some had no conception of what cultivation would do for the currant.

The President said that a neighbor of his had an annual crop which brought him from \$800 to \$1,300 per acre, all grown under apple trees.

Mr. Hooker—The currant worm can be killed by sprinkling the plant with white powdered hellebore. He said that of late no fruit had been so scarce in New York, and thus so highly prized on account of its loss by the worm. The fruit had been sold at \$5 a bushel. He thought the difference between the Versailles and other kinds puzzling and not material.

The President thought the diversity decided, and described the kinds.

## DISCUSSION ON GRAPE CULTURE

was in order, and Mr. Husmann was called upon for his experience with the Iona. It was decidedly adverse.

Mr. Miner had thriving vines in the fourth year, but this year frost had killed the fruit.

Various gentlemen bore unfavorable testimony, but Mr. Bateham testified that the Iona had succeeded on the lake shores from Sandusky to about Dunkirk—two hundred miles. In at least nine out of ten cases, he had found the vines in fine growth, and the promise entirely satisfactory. He had a few vines beginning to bear. One thousand were in a sandy, yellow soil, and grew well. Another thousand in a nursery of richer soil, mildewed badly—another proof that localities change astonishingly. He knew of no failure after one or two years' growth. Others had planted more than he and were delighted. In still other localities the vines were doing splendidly, and seemed perfect in leaf and vine. The same held true in Pittsburg and in Delaware. There should be caution against condemning any variety.

Mr. Jordan, St. Louis, urged the necessity of good clean culture, plentiful mulching, and abundant moisture. He opposed condemning varieties, but on his land, when he wanted grapes, should plant the Concord. As to his second choice, he hesitated between Norton's Virginia and Clinton. He would not plant grapes on any soil not rich enough to bear a good crop of corn. The nature of the vine was to produce seed, and to cultivate it we must assist its nature in this. The vine must mature to that point. Then it runs to wood, and if its growth is now checked, it goes to ripening its leaves and fruit. Constant care and close pruning were necessary.

Mr. Husmann held to the rule. "By their fruits ye

shall know them," and asked Dr. Griffith how many acres he had planted in Iona, and how much fruit he had got.

Dr. Griffith, Pennsylvania, had 20,000 Ionas in his vineyard, and a committee of grape growers had called it the best vineyard they had seen. It was in its second year; he had 150,000 vines; didn't think Mr. Husmann could ever make Ionas succeed in Hermann. This year the bearing Iona vines in Pennsylvania are remarkably successful. But peculiar conditions are required, and the Iona cannot keep company with the Concord over a vast area of territory.

Mr. Hoag had fruited the Iona with abundant success.

#### THE IVES SEEDLING.

Mr. Mears, O., had known it for nine years and cultivated it for three—two years at his home. Had seen no mildew or rot about it, but had seen it produce heavy crops from the third year onward, at every stage of growth. The bunches were large, compact and sound. He was no wine maker, and did not judge it as to wine. As to flavor, any one would love it who loved the Concord.

Mr. Meehan left home (Philadelphia,) prejudiced against the Ives seedling, but at Cincinnati found it to be as good as the Concord, and it was regarded as excellent as Norton's Virginia for wine.

Mr. Husmann had found the Ives slow in bearing, and preferred the Concord for flavor and Norton's Virginia for wine.

At this point of the discussion some plates of Ives' grapes were brought in, handed about, freely partaken of, and generally enjoyed. They were from the vineyard of J. M. McCullough, Cincinnati.

Dr. Warder discoursed positively and eloquently of the Ives, but chiefly of its abundance of wine.

Mr. Knox found it ripen earlier than the Concord, and found it free from disease.

Mr. Meehan had seen a little rot in the Ives, and also an instance in it of a disease resembling the fire blight of the pear. It was at Colonel Warren's vineyard.

Dr. Warder said that in this instance the blight was by an insect which attacked all grapes, and which happened to be rife in that locality.

Mr. Husmann said it would be very interesting to hear the experience of the President in regard to American and European wines.

The President said that on his arrival at Paris from Washington, he was elected one of the Commissioners. He found that the American wines had been passed by by the committee. A single bottle of Catawba was taken as a sample of American wines. He endeavored to obtain a revision, but failed. He then moved for the appointment of a committee of the Universal Exhibition to report upon the growth of the vine, horticulture, and pomology. The committee was appointed, consisting of Americans, of which he was a member. The committee found that samples of American wines had been seriously injured by being placed in a hot house.

In examining some of the wines from Hesse Darmstadt, the committee found them inferior to ours. The owners on tasting our wines, said, if you can make such wine as this, you have no need of ours.

He said the best American wines would compare favorably with those of the Rhine. We were taken to the famous Johannisburg, and were shown their best wine, and had never before tasted such excellent wines. These favorite wines are sold at one pound ten shillings per bottle to the Emperor of Russia, the Duke of Cambridge, and other nobles who could afford to pay for them. These wines would cost in this country about \$15 per bottle. We cannot raise such wines, but have some almost as good.

They examined the American wines, and the Europeans expressed their approbation of the Virginia Seedling and the Ives. A gentleman said these are the only wines that could have withstood the heat to which they were exposed. Go in, then, in raising your red wines—they cannot be surpassed.

At Johannisburg we examined the soil, and found it apparently unfavorable for grape raising. The whole surface is like a cake of burnt clay, and had to be broken up by a large two-pronged hoe. Only 60,000 bottles were raised on this spot. (A specimen of the soil was shown.)

Mr. Barry, who accompanied the President to Europe, was called to state his experience, but declined adding anything to what had been said. He said the Johannisburg grape was a Reissling. The fine grapes are all raised on elevated ground, the level ground always producing inferior wine. The vineyards are renewed once in ten, fifteen, or twenty years. We saw fields from which the vines had been removed and broken up preparatory to renewing the vines.

Mr. Husmann offered a resolution of thanks to the President, and those who accompanied him to Europe for the eminent service done to American horticulture. Adopted.

The President said that in his travels on the Rhine he found that the steep hills were the favorite spots for the culture of the grape; on the south side, where the soil is dry and the heat of the sun intense. The grape crop frequently failed. Our climate seems to be just as favorable as theirs. We have bad seasons as well as they.

Mr. Barry said on one side of the Rhine the Reissling grape is cultivated with great success, while on the other side it could not be raised well. It is a late grape, and requires to be well ripened.

Dr. Walter was called to the chair, and Dr. Trimble took the stand. He said: There are a great many insects, the enemy of the fruit being comprised in eight or ten. He wished to know which one of these insects it was desired that he should speak of. The meeting moved the codling moth.

Dr. T. said he traveled over this country many years ago, and then there was no fruit here; now there are 2,400 varieties on exhibition up stairs. All this fruit is troubled with insects. Iowa appears to be a very wormy State. He was introduced to the President of the Iowa Agricultural Society this morning, and found him literally covered with the codling moth. He said he had put some pears in his pocket, and that accounted for it. The codling moth and the curenlio are very troublesome to fruit. They appear in it when the fruit

is quite young. You will find them under the trees, and the best way to get rid of them is to let the hogs and cattle into the orchard and they will destroy them. We have no apples in New Jersey this year, but will probably have some next year, if the apple moth does not destroy them. If there is no other way of getting rid of these insects, it is better to gather the young fruit and destroy them. He could not recommend the tarring process. I do not think the ordinary farmer can spare time to kill the curculio in that way. A man who wants to raise choice fruits must devote his whole attention to it.

A great many of the fruits destroyed by this apple moth or caterpillar fall to the ground without the moth upon it. All the stone fruits have but one enemy, the curculio, while the apples and pears have two—the curculio and moth. A great many caterpillars secrete themselves under the bark of trees—it is a favorite place for them; the first brood will come out in the spring, and the second brood will remain until the next spring. He had adopted the plan of putting hay rope bands around the trees, and had caught a great many. The young ones crawl up the tree by instinct, and form their cocoons; when intercepted by the hay bands they stop and form their cocoons between the hay and the bark. He could not say whether they came out of the tree, or were hatched somewhere else. Last fall he caught 1,000 caterpillars under the hay rope, and there were as many on the fruit. This moth comes at intervals all the summer. Any one of experience can tell the apple or pear that contains the caterpillar; cut it open, and you will see it engaged in drilling. The first moment you see them on your fruit, put the hay bands on and you can catch them. As for the last brood, take off the hay bands, and the birds will destroy them. Many of them are destroyed by other insects. (Dr. T. exhibited a hay rope that had been in use in his orchard, and explained the mode of putting it on, wrapping it three times around the tree. He also exhibited a piece of bark from a pear tree, perforated with holes made by the downy woodpecker in search of the caterpillar. Audubon calls this bird the sap-sucker; but it is not, that is an unfortunate name, for it is one of our most valuable birds.)

Some suppose there are two broods of the curculio in the seam, but this is not so. Where they live in the winter is not positively known, but most probably they lie about the roots of grass a little below the ground. He had no doubt that there are species of curculio in the West that do not exist in the East.

He spoke of the superior size and color of the Western peaches and apples, and exhibited a string of New Jersey apples about the size of marbles.

Mr. Earl, Illinois, said it was a demonstrated fact that the curculio can be killed. The expense of destroying them on eleven hundred peach trees at a certain place was just two dollars per day.

Dr. Trimble said he was delighted to hear it. If he was going into the fruit business he would cultivate plums and apricots alone. He wanted a resolution passed to-morrow that all the "curculio killers" were a humbug. It could only be done by the labor of human hands. A statement had been made that by

borring a hole in the tree, and putting in sulphur, the insect would be killed. He had been fool enough to try this remedy himself. All these remedies are not worth a straw. The curculio is often killed during a dry season, while undergoing transformation. His impression was that next year this part of the country will be much troubled by the curculio, the present summer having been very dry.

A member inquired of Dr. T. whether calomel would dissolve in the sap of trees, and kill the insects.

The Doctor replied that if it did it would kill the tree.

The member said parties had been going through the country selling a mixture for this purpose.

A delegate from Southern Illinois inquired whether they did not also sell "sap heads." [Laughter.]

Another delegate asked Dr. T. what remedy there was for the borer.

Dr. T.—Why, kill it, kill it. [Great merriment.]

A resolution was offered requesting the President and Mr. Barry to publish their observations in Europe for the use of this Society. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Saunders, of the District of Columbia, the thanks of the Society were tendered to Dr. Trimble for his interesting and valuable remarks on insects this evening. Adopted.

The subject of the culture of the grape was then taken up, it being understood that the speakers would speak of the soil, climate, &c.

Mr. Taylor, Kentucky, said his experience with the Isabella and Iona was that they could not be raised in the nursery.

Mr. Taft, St. Louis, had had a different experience with the Isabella. The soil used by him was white oak soil.

Dr. Doolittle had fruited this grape, and found that it was not a remarkably fine grape—soil, heavy clay.

Mr. Taft, in reply to a question, said the Isabella had no advantage over the Logan.

The Norton Virginia was taken up, Mr. Taft said it was a good grower upon our Western white oak soil, of a mixture of clay and sand; it is very productive; not a good table grape.

Mr. Sanders said the Virginia grape was too tender for Northern latitudes; it would not ripen in Connecticut.

Mr. Griffith, Pa., stated that he had a few vines of this grape in his place, and found it very healthy, always ripening well.

Mr. Husmann said he made six hundred gallons of wine from this grape—had made as much as twelve hundred; it bears at three years old, and the older it gets the better it becomes. The Arkansas, the Cynthiana, and the Virginia, are the only three varieties that he had ever seen that never rots. He had seen a whole vineyard killed, but it was from bad management. He said that some kinds of grapes can be raised on any soil we have, but it is useless to force certain kinds upon unfavorable soils. We should study our soils, as they do in Europe, and the man who is not willing to take that trouble, had better quit grape raising. He was in favor of every locality cultivating the varieties suited to it.

Mr. Foster, Iowa, said a rich corn soil was not good for most varieties of grapes; but a wheat soil was favorable. The Concord would grow anywhere, but the Catawba and Diana were injured by rich soils.

After some further discussion the Society adjourned.

### GRAPE CULTURE.

GRAPES.—*Eds. Farmer*.—Desiring information on grape culture, and knowing of no better or more reliable way of gaining the information sought than to appeal to your excellent paper for it, I subjoin the following questions:

1. What is the best field grape for general cultivation? And
2. How much wine will a vineyard yield per acre?
3. How many vines will it require to set one acre?
4. Which are the three best kinds for table use?

Our soil is clay, and said to be good for grapes.—*W. D. D., Spencer, O.*

1. The Concord is now considered to be the best grape for general cultivation; but yours is a question that must be governed entirely by climate and circumstances.

2. The quantity of wine which may be produced from an acre of grapes will depend entirely upon the amount of fruit grown on a given space, and its quality. The usual yield around Cincinnati is from 300 to 400 gallons per acre.

The distance the vines may be planted apart will depend entirely upon whether they are to be grown on trellises or stakes; if the former, they may be planted ten by twelve feet apart, or even more; if the latter, four by five feet or greater. The number of vines required will be regulated by the distance they are placed apart.

### A QUERY.

*EDS. AMERICAN FARMER*.—I should be glad to obtain through the columns of your excellent paper some information in regard to the following: My pear trees (mostly dwarf) are afflicted with a difficulty which I cannot find in the books treating of diseases of the pear. I will state the facts as briefly as possible without comment. In the latter part of July the leaves and limbs begin to turn black, being covered by a black mole or sooty looking substance; the growth is checked, the leaves many of them drop off, the growth of the fruit is checked, and this black substance getting on the spurs seems to hinder the development of the fruit buds for the coming season. The black stuff is deposited mostly on the small limbs and under side of the leaves along the leaf stem. On examination I find in the last named places a small fly or gnat wings forming a ridge on the back; there I also find attached to the under side of the leaves, along the leaf stem mostly, but sometimes all over the under side of the leaf, and when this black mold is thickest a sort of gum or honey-like substance in which are deposited little lice whether the offspring of the aforesaid fly or not I cannot tell. On being scratched loose from the leaf they begin to travel real lively, and in their appearance and motions very much resemble a young bed bug. It is, not the woolly aphid or tree louse, and I

have examined works on this subject of pear culture, &c., and can find no description of this thing, and of course no remedy.—*T. E., Ulster County, N. Y.*

We think it may be mildew, but shall be pleased to hear from any of our readers that have trees affected in a similar way.—*Eds.*

### A NEW DWARF TOMATO.

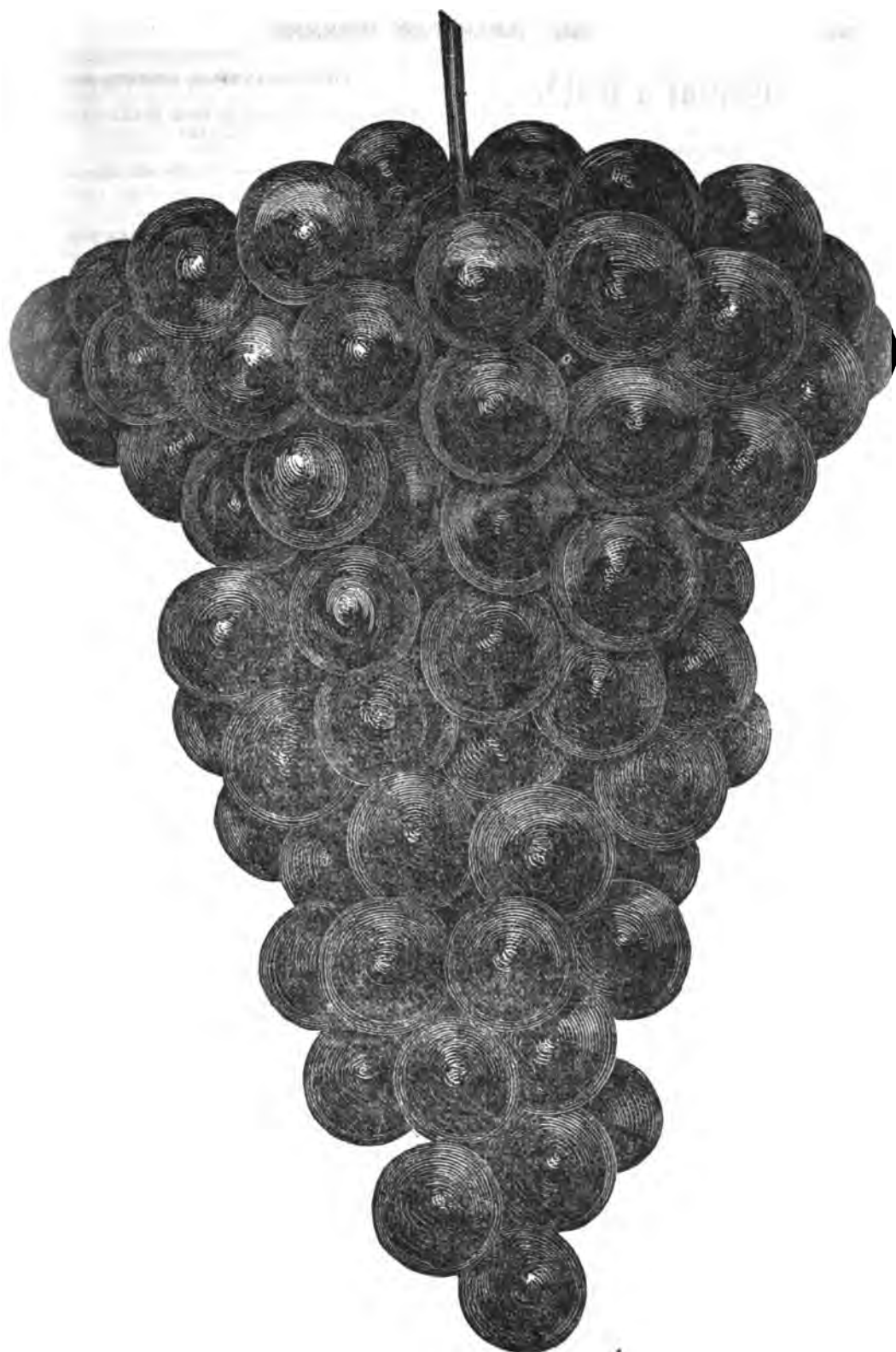
ON a recent visit to the nursery grounds of John Charlton, of this city, our attention was directed to a new dwarf tomato, which we understood to be an English variety, and named the Orangefield Dwarf Prolific, sent out by Mr. Williams, of the Paradise Nursery, London, and recommended by some of the most practical gardeners in England, as being the best variety for forcing and also for general garden culture, and if we are to judge from the specimens as we saw them growing in his grounds, it certainly is a prolific variety. As a matter of curiosity we measured the size of some of the vines. These varied from three to four feet in diameter, the average height being only six inches, and the quantity of fruit on each one varying 30 to 60 full grown specimens. Mr. Charlton assured us that it was not only a very prolific, but also an early variety, as the seeds from which these plants were raised, were sowed but ten hours before that of Keyes Early Prolific, and yet they ripened two weeks before that or any other variety sown at or near the same time.

### HOP APHIS.

*Messrs. Eds.*—Will you please describe the insect called the *aphis* or hop louse. The hop crop has been very much injured in this State (Wisconsin) by a very small green insect found all through the inside of the hop, and upon picking the hops are found to come to the outside of the field sacks in such numbers as to nearly cover the sack. The growth of my hops was entirely checked about two weeks before the time of picking. I have about two-thirds of a crop of rather inferior quality, nearly all turning brown immediately after picking. Other yards are almost an entire failure. I trained two acres on the Collins plan—stakes and twine—which was a beautiful crop. Many others have done as well since. If this new pest proves to be the eastern hop louse, then we are gone up for raising hops in Wisconsin.—*F. S. T., Neenah, Wis.*

The hop *aphis* is the common plant louse. When it appears on the hop vine, it is a light green, when on oats or barley, light red; on cherry trees, very dark color. They are easily destroyed by an application of slacked lime, or plaster, (gypsum.) Where vines are trained on the Collins horizontal plan, it is very easy to go through the yard with the above application, but on long poles it is nearly impossible to reach the tops.—*Eds.*

*DIANA-HAMBURG GRAPE*.—The grape illustrated on the following page, is a cross between the Black Hamburg and the Diana, and gives great promise of proving a valuable grape for some localities. The largest clusters are larger than the Concord, weighing a pound each or more. The vine is said to be a moderately vigorous grower, and hardy and productive. The grape is also claimed to be an admirable keeper.



**NEW HYBRID GRAPE, "DIANA HAMBURG."**

## Editor's Table.

### Commence at Once.

THE great secret of getting subscribers, is to commence early. As soon as this number reaches our readers, let all agents and friends who are disposed to get up Clubs, commence at once among their neighbors to induce them to subscribe for "the practical farmer's own paper," for the year 1868. THE FARMER is so cheap that every one can afford to take it, and none ought to refuse when asked. All new subscribers will be entered on our books and get the remainder of this year from the time their names are recorded.

### The American Farmer in Canada.

As long as the premium on gold continues, we shall send THE AMERICAN FARMER to our Canadian subscribers at 50 cents each, in clubs of five or more, or single subscriptions at seventy-five cents.

If American money is sent, our terms will be one dollar a year, or seventy-five cents in clubs. We prepay the American postage on all papers sent to Canada or any of the British Provinces.

THE AMERICAN FARMER ANNUAL AND LADIES' GARDEN COMPANION FOR 1868.—We have now in press, and will issue in a few days, a beautiful Treatise on the Cultivation of Hardy Bulbs, Tuberous Rooted Flowers, Roses, House Plants, &c., which we take great pleasure in commending to the notice of the public as a valuable auxiliary to the cultivation of flowers. It will be beautifully illustrated, and filled with choice reading matter containing full and practical directions for the cultivation and management of all the different plants on which its treats—the price being so low as to bring it within the reach of every true lover of flowers. We expect a large circulation, and shall be pleased to receive orders at as early a date as possible, as the first edition will soon be exhausted.

Price of single copies, 30 cents; Eight copies, \$2.00; 100 copies, \$20.

STOCK PUMP.—We saw many valuable improvements at our State Fair, but none we believe of greater value than the Patric Stock Pump exhibited by Hiram Lawton, of this city. There are but few who pump water, or drive their stock a considerable distance to water, in cold bad weather, that would willingly do without this pump if they understood its real merits, supplying as it does always, a pure fountain of flowing water whenever the stock desire it. It took the first premium, and we learn that there was a large number sold.

Do you want a knitting machine?  
Do you want a collection of valuable flower seeds?  
Do you want Webster's Unabridged Dictionary?  
Do you want a barometer?  
Do you want a choral organ?  
Read our new Premium List on the last page.

## THE WEATHER, CROPS, &c.

Notes on the Weather from Sept. 15, to Oct. 16, 1867.

ANOTHER good portion of fair weather has been passing since September 15th, the end of the remarks. In the first half of September, the temperature had been 2.4° below the general average. In the last half of September, the mean was 59.4°, or 2.4° above the general average, 57°. The average of the month was 60.5°, which is exactly the average of the month for 21 years. The drouth through most of August not wholly relieved by the rain near the end, and in the former part of September led to the general notion of its being warmer than common, while the month was at the average.

In the last half of September, the hottest noon, 86°, and hottest day, 78.3°, on the 18th; and the coldest day, 41.3°, and coldest evening, 36°, on the 30th.

The rain of this half was 0.97 inch, and of the month, 2.28 inches—about two-thirds the average of water for the month.

First white frost on the 27th—36° at 6 A. M. Leaves of grapes injured on the upper exposure, but not on the side. On the 28th more frost, and more injury to the grape leaves; the fruit rarely touched by the frost.

The unusual amount of rain in July on the Atlantic coast and westward to the summit line of the Alleghany Mountains or range, was attended with a far less quantity of water on the west of that summit line, even to the west of the Mississippi. We have learned the operations of certain forces on or near the surface of the earth in production of rain, dew, frost, and hail; but the intensity and extent of their action, or the ways in which they seem to be so easily and so greatly modified, even philosophers have not yet discovered. Why should one severe storm in the same country be so much diverse in different seasons or years? Who will reply?

OCTOBER began and has continued at a moderate heat. The winds and frosts not very great. The average heat of this half was 49.2°, or about 2° below the average. The rain of the first half was 1.77 inches—the usual quantity. The fall harvest yields maize and potatoes in smaller quantity than usual, half of the ears of the maize for example, finely filled out, and the show excellent. But there will be full scope for economy as well as of industry among those who design or desire to live and to improve. Many pleasant days and bright nights have gladdened the season. Health general, and the variegated foliage is putting on its richest beauties.

## THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, Oct. 25, 1867.

FLOUR—White wheat, 16.50. Red, \$14.00.  
GRAIN—White wheat, 300c. Red, 240@250c. Corn, 125c. Barley, \$1.15@1.25. Rye, 185c. Oats, 75c.  
BEANS—250@300.  
HOPS—50c for inferior, to 70c. for best samples.  
WOOL—Nothing doing, prices nominal.



HAY—\$1.00@1.25.

PROVISIONS.—Lard, 13c. Butter, 34@35c. Eggs, 25c. Cheese, 14@15c. Potatoes, 75c. Dried apples, 7c. Chickens, 18@20c. &c.

## OFFICE OF AMERICAN FARMER.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Oct. 23, 1887.

SINCE our last report wheat has advanced 45c. per bushel. In this city red and amber wheat is worth from \$2.40@2.50, but there is not much in the hands of farmers. The first amber wheat sold in this city after the past harvest, brought \$2.50 per bushel. The farmer threshed it as he drew it in from the field, and rushed it into market. The general impression was, that wheat this year would rule low, and that those who sold first would do best. Threshers never had so busy a time. Everybody wanted them at once, and they were enabled to get almost any price they liked to ask. Of course, as long as there was such a disposition to sell prices declined. Many sold at \$2, and thought themselves fortunate to get it. We heard of one farmer who sold at this price—having given the threshers a bonus to induce them to come to him before his turn—and on asking the buyer when he wished it delivered, was answered: "any time between now and the next harvest." Farmers soon found that the bottom was not going to drop out of the wheat market, and a reaction took place. They were no longer afraid that if they stopped to finish sowing or to cut up their corn, wheat would have to be given away! When this disposition to rush the wheat into market ceased, prices began to advance, and have been advancing ever since. Many farmers held for \$2.50, (the price one or two got that sold during harvest), and when this was offered sold freely. We think present prices are high enough. They may be higher, but when a good price is offered it is generally best to sell.

Barley is lower than it was. This ought not to be. The crop is undoubtedly short, both in this State and in Canada. Less land was sown, owing to the wet spring, and the crop owing to the great drouth, is comparatively a failure. The quality is pretty good, but the yield is not more than half what it was last year. We ought to get \$1.75 per bushel for a first class sample of barley—and we should if farmers could only agree among themselves to sell for no less. The trouble with the barley crop is, that malsters have the matter of prices all in their own hands. There is no foreign competition as there is for wheat and corn. Our barley is not good enough for the English market. If American malsters agree among themselves not to pay more than a certain price, and farmers take what they can get, there is no foreign demand to interfere with the arrangement.—Farmers should try and protect themselves, and should insist that, at least, their agricultural papers should not be wholly in the interest of the brewers. If people will drink beer, they should be made to pay a fair price for the barley. With wheat at \$2.50, and corn at \$1.20, barley with only half a crop ought to bring \$1.75.

Potatoes in this section are, as a general rule, a very light crop. Occasionally, on low, moist land, a fair field is obtained, but the general crop on our best potato soils is 50 per cent. below the average. We know one good farmer who dug forty hills to get half a bushel, and another who has a dozen or more acres that he says will not go over twenty-five bushels of marketable potatoes to the acre. Half the potatoes are not larger than marbles. This is owing in a great measure to the extreme dry weather; and the habit of planting in hills on the surface has something to do with it. Deeper planting and better cultivation would enable the crop to withstand the drouth much better. The only objection to deep planting is the extra labor of digging. But we shall soon have a machine to do this. Potatoes sell from the wagons in this city at about 75c.@80c. per bushel. At the East, where the season has been an unusually wet one, the yield is good, but fears are entertained of the rot, and farmers are anxious to dispose of them, and this keeps down the price. Next spring it is thought that potatoes will be very scarce and high.

Beans are lower in this city. The quality is better than last year, but the yield is very light. "The fact is," said a buyer to us the other day, "there are no beans in the country." And there can be no doubt that on threshing the yield will prove very light. The pods are as large as usual, but the dry weather, especially where the land was grassy, shrivelled up the beans, and good sized pods do not contain more than two or three sound beans, and these are very small. The seedsmen in this city are offering \$3 to \$3.50 for early varieties of beans for seed. For hand picked they give more.

Apples turn out much better than was expected, and prices are lower. We have a great country, however, and the demand for apples at fair prices is always equal to the supply. There would be three times the quantity of apples consumed at \$2 a barrel that there would be at \$5. There is no danger of glutting the market. The only danger to the apple trade is in speculators forcing prices up to such a point that ordinary consumers cannot afford to buy. Whenever we have a good, general crop, the fact should be known; farmers should take a fair price, and men, women, and children, should be told the glad news that this best and healthiest of all fruits was abundant, and urged to "put in" and have a good time. Give us plenty of apple pies, with not too much sugar, and no crust at the bottom, and but little at the top, and "Young America" will soon clean out the biggest apple crop we can raise.

Cider is in demand at \$3.00 to \$4.00 per bbl. With a tax of \$2 a gallon on whisky, cider should command a high price, if for nothing else than to make vinegar. Formerly nearly all the vinegar consumed in the large cities, was made from whisky or "high wines," but now the tax alone is from eight to ten times as much as the whisky formerly sold for. Unless the government is cheated, there cannot be much vinegar made out of whisky, and cider should command a good price. If it does not, keep it yourselves and make it into vinegar.

Butter is advancing, and it is not caused by speculators. The fact is, we have had one of the severest drouths on record, and we are still greatly in need of rain. Many wells are dry that have not been dry before for thirty years, and farmers have to drive their cows quite a long distance, in many instances, to water, and nearly every farmer is more or less incommoded by a scarcity of water. Fall feed is far from abundant, and the yield of butter is light. We know a farmer, who keeps nine cows, that informs us that he was getting over sixty pounds of butter a week, but that owing to the drouth the yield fell off to less than thirty lbs., and nothing that he could do would again raise it above thirty lbs. But he thinks with good feeding this amount can be obtained longer into winter than usual.

Wool is still very low. Those who sold at shearing did best. The market for woolen goods—and, in fact, for all goods—is very dull. Manufacturers say they are doing little, and making nothing. We suppose they are living on the exorbitant high profits made during the war.

Farmers are selling their sheep at very low prices—in fact, for whatever the butchers will pay. They are not worth, or rather do not bring, half what they were worth this time last year. We are decidedly of the opinion that farmers are making a mistake in thus "giving away" their sheep. The present depression is nothing but a natural reaction from the extravagant prices that have been in vogue for the past few years. Sheep and wool are as much below the nominal value now as they have been above it. Hold on to the sheep. Take good care of them the coming winter, and you will not regret it.

"I guess we are stuck on pigs," said a farmer to us the other day. "I wintered over fifteen, and they are now big hogs; and, I tell you, they eat lots of corn, and that is a scarce article this year." The country is full of thin, hungry pigs, with little to feed them on. The consequence is, that everything that is at all fit to kill is disposed of for fresh pork. Fat hogs are, and will be scarce, and we believe will yet bring fair prices—say 9 or 10



## Farm Produce.

The following table will show the prices of leading agricultural products in New York at this date for the last nine years:

	—1859.—	—1860.—	—1861.—	—1862.—	—1863.—	—1864.—	—1865.—	—1866.—	—1867.—
White Wheat.....	\$1.35 @ \$1.45	\$1.50 @ \$1.60	\$1.35 @ \$1.45	\$1.45 @ \$1.55	— @ \$1.75	\$2.30 @ \$2.45	\$2.40 @ \$2.75	\$2.26 @ \$3.27	\$2.20 @ \$3.35
Red Wheat.....	1.10 @ 1.15	1.35 @ 1.45	1.25 @ 1.40	1.30 @ 1.45	— @ 1.40	1.90 @ 2.20	1.75 @ 2.35	1.98 @ 2.00	2.10 @ 2.75
Corn.....	1.00 @ 1.08	75 @ 86	60 @ 70	62 @ 69	— @ 1.01	1.50 @ 1.55	74 @ 88	1.04 @ 1.09	1.36 @ 1.44
Rye.....	88 @ 90	80 @ 81	80 @ 85	70 @ 88	— @ —	1.40 @ 1.45	1.12 @ 1.20	1.13 @ 1.22	1.65 @ 1.70
Barley.....	78 @ 88	75 @ 89	70 @ 75	1.10 @ 1.25	1.45 @ 1.55	1.75 @ 2.00	1.10 @ 1.28	1.05 @ 1.35	1.31 @ 1.53
Oats.....	88 @ 44	88 @ 40	42 @ 48	56 @ 60	77 @ 83	84 @ 87	50 @ 58	59 @ 65	81 @ 82
Beans.....	80 @ 80	90 @ 1.15	1.35 @ 2.10	1.50 @ 2.60	2.10 @ 2.90	1.50 @ 2.55	1.50 @ 2.35	2.40 @ 2.60	3.30 @ 4.00
Peas.....	75 @ 80	— @ —	80 @ 90	— @ —	1.08 @ 1.10	1.50 @ 2.00	1.25 @ 1.80	1.30 @ 1.80	1.45 @ 1.50
Butter.....	13 @ 25	13½ @ 21	11 @ 21	12 @ 24	25 @ 30	85 @ 80	80 @ 65	20 @ 65	24 @ 50
Cheese.....	8 @ 11	9 @ 11½	6 @ 7½	8 @ 11	12 @ 16½	12 @ 22	15 @ 19	14 @ 18	12½ @ 17
Potatoes.....	1.12½ @ 1.75	— @ —	1.38 @ 2.00	1.40 @ 2.00	1.37½ @ 2.50	2.25 @ 3.50	1.75 @ 3.00	1.38 @ 2.25	2.00 @ 2.75
Live Hogs.....	5 @ 6	— @ —	8½ @ 4½	4½ @ 5½	5 @ 5½	11 @ 18	13 @ 14	10 @ 10½	6 @ 7½
Wool.....	40 @ 62½	40 @ 60	42 @ 50	60 @ 65	60 @ 65	80 @ 95	55 @ 75	45 @ 65	39 @ 48
Beef Cattle.....	6½ @ 10	— @ —	5 @ 8½	6 @ 8½	5 @ 10	7 @ 18	9 @ 18	14 @ 18	18 @ 16½

cents per lb. They ought to bring more at the present price of corn; and if all the lean and fat hogs are disposed of at the present rate, such may be the case. Butter is likely to rule high during the winter, and this will cause an increased demand for lard, which in its turn will improve the price of fat hogs. With the high price of flour, pork ought not to rule very low. Next to mutton, it is decidedly the cheapest food that can be obtained.

Beef is likely to be very high next spring, owing to the scarcity of corn at the west. Everything that will do to sell this fall will be sent to market. The present glut of mutton and lean pork will have passed away, and the indications are that good meat next spring will be very high. These violent fluctuations in prices are not healthy—good neither for farmers nor consumers. Some of the newspapers attribute this state of things to the currency, politics, &c. But while these have much to do with unsettling prices, the law of supply and demand is the great regulator of prices.

The preceding table shows the price in New York of some of the leading articles of farm produce at this time, for the last nine years:

This table is interesting in many ways; but the most useful information to be obtained from it is in regard to the relative price of one article as compared with another. Thus taking red wheat and barley, we find that on the average of six years (1859-1864) red wheat brought \$1.37 @ \$1.50, and barley \$1.18 @ \$1.21. In other words, the average price of red wheat, at this season, during these six years, was \$1.43½, and barley \$1.17; that is to say, barley brought over 81 per cent. of the price of wheat. At this rate, with red wheat in New York at \$2.75, barley should bring \$2.23½ per bushel. That is its average price as compared with the price of wheat; and we see no reason why this price ought not to be obtained, in order to maintain the relative profit of growing barley as compared with growing wheat.

Take another case—butter and cheese. For the six years named the average price of butter at this season was 17½c. @ 27½c. per lb., that of cheese 9c. @ 18½c. In other words, the average price of cheese at this season is 11½c., and butter 22½c. per lb., or just half the price of butter. At the present time butter is quoted in New York at 30c. @ 50c., and cheese 8c. @ 15c. per lb.; or, taking the mean, butter is 35c. and cheese 11½c. per lb. In other words, butter is now, as compared with cheese much higher than the average.

## New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY S. EDWARDS TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.

**BEEVES**—The number of beef cattle received for the weekly supply during the past week, is 6,843 head. Week before last over 8,000 head were received. The receipts of all kinds of meat animals, have been enormously heavy. Prices have been higher than they now are. Since my last report prices have risen to 17½c. @ 27½c. net weight. But to-day 16½c. seems to be the top of the market. Very few cattle are sold for more than 15c. @ 16c. net weight, although occasionally a few extra fattened bullocks were sold for 16½c. @ 17c. net weight. The poorest lots bring only 8c. @ 10c. net weight. The general selling price seems to be about 13c. @ 14c. net weight. Large numbers of the cattle are thin and poor, and consequently sell exceedingly slow, and at low prices.

**MILCH COWS**—There seems to be a little more activity in the cow market than last week. The receipts for the past week number only 67, including those received at all the yards. Those that are brought to market are generally quite inferior milkers, and are sold at \$40 @ \$50 per head.

**CALVES**—Since my last report on calves, the prices have declined a trifle. The receipts for the last weekly supply number

1862. The best calves will sell readily at 12c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., live gross weight.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS**—The receipts of this kind of stock continue very heavy. Hundreds of thin sheep are sold for \$2.00 @ \$2.50 per head. Sheep sell for 4c. @ 6c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., live weight. A small number only are worth 8c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Most of the sheep are too poor to slaughter. Lambs of the best quality sell for 6c. @ 7c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., live weight, but they are required to be first rate to command those prices. Most of the sheep are sold at 4c. per lb., live weight.

The number of sheep and lambs received at all the yards during the past week amounts to 28,068. Hundreds of them would sell for more in the country than is paid for them here. But, if farmers are short of feed, they are compelled to dispose of them at some rate.

**SWINE**—The receipts for the past week number 26,449 head. There was a fair demand for fat swine yesterday; but the large number of thin and miserable sealwags sell slowly, and at low prices. Heavy prime, corn-fed hogs, sell readily at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  @ 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; fair to good hogs 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  @ 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; light sows 6c. @ 7c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; thin lots 5c. @ 6c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. The arrivals are fully equal to the requirements of the market. Dealers say they receive far more thin and poor hogs than they can dispose of to advantage to any one.

**GRAIN**—The prices of grain since my last report have declined and advanced alternately, so that no one has confidence to offer a prediction as to what will occur a week or a month hence. Wheat has advanced 1c. @ 2c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel on lighter offerings and a fair inquiry. Sales were reported yesterday of 115,000 bushels, including white Michigan, at \$4.25; No. 1 spring, at \$2.25 @ \$2.27, and very handsome at \$2.30; No. 2 do, at \$2.17 @ \$2.19 @ \$2.20 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Mixed No. 1 and 2 do, at \$2.23; No. 3 spring, part at \$2.10; white Genesee on private terms, and amber State at \$2.65 per bushel.

Corn opened decidedly firmer on a fairly active demand, but closed very heavily at a reduction of 2c. @ 3c. from the opening rates, under a pressure to realize, while buyers seemed reluctant to operate. Sales were reported yesterday of 87,500 bushels, at \$1.38 @ \$1.41 $\frac{1}{2}$ , as extremes, for mixed Western, in store and afloat, closing at \$1.38 @ \$1.38 $\frac{1}{2}$  for prime; \$1.30 @ \$1.37 $\frac{1}{2}$  for unground, and \$1.48 @ \$1.44 for yellow Western,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

Rye has been in less confident demand, and less buoyant in price. Sales 14,000 bushels, including Western at \$1.65 @ \$1.67, and of State at \$1.65 @ \$1.70  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

Barley has been in light demand, at drooping prices. Sales 12,500 bushels, at \$1.50 for Canada West, and \$1.81 for State  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

Oats continue in fair demand, at firmer prices. We quote new Western at from 81c. @ 83c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel. Sales 55,000 bushels, mainly to arrive.

**FLOUR AND MEAL**—The demand has been light of late, closing at a further material reduction in prices. Sales were reported yesterday of 9,450 bbls., including poor to choice superfine State and Western, at \$3.20 @ \$9; very poor to good extra State, at \$2.60 @ \$10.20; good to choice extra State at \$10.25 @ \$10.50; poor to good shipping brands of round-hoop extra Ohio, at \$9.70 @ \$10.60  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl. We now quote:

Sup. State and Western, \$3.20 @ \$9; extra State, \$9.60 @ \$10.50; extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c., \$9.70 @ \$13.50; extra Ohio, round-hoop, shipping brands, \$9.70 @ \$10.60; extra Ohio, trade and family brands, \$10.65 @ \$13.75; extra Genesee, \$10.60 @ \$13.75; common to choice extra Missouri, \$13.25 @ \$16.50.

Southern flour continues inactive, at drooping prices. Sales were reported yesterday of 450 bbls., at \$10.10 @ \$16 for common to very superior extra,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl.

Rye flour is in less request, at \$7 @ \$9.50 for inferior to very choice,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl. Sales 400 bbls.

Corn meal has been in fair request at \$6.60 for city, \$6.75 for Jersey, \$7 for valerie, and \$7.75 for Brandywine,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl. Sales 650 bbls.

Of California flour sales were reported of 200 bbls. and sacks at \$11.50 @ \$13.75  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl. of 136 lbs.

Buckwheat flour is in limited demand, at \$4.00 @ \$4.25  $\frac{1}{2}$  100 lbs.

**BUTTER**—With an increase of 2,344 packages for the week—the receipts being 15,937—we still have to report a higher market. Pails were advanced 5c. on board the boats last Saturday, which enables dealers to get 45c. @ 48c. for very fine selections of State firkins and half firkins, though 42c. is as high as straight dairies will readily bring, right through. The feeling to-day is not quite as strong as a few days ago, the receipts of yesterday being nearly 4,000 packages. A very small amount of Western is coming forward, and several lots of Canada have been received, some of the best of which is holding for 35c., with 42c. offered. These high prices will bring forward butter from places least expected, and if it should turn out that there is more butter at the West than is credited to them, and especially if Canada should send in freely, the extreme rates counted upon will hardly be reached. The facts will be apparent in a few weeks. While some fine lots of Welsh have been selling at 42c., the majority is going off at about 40c. There is a great complaint that the late make of butter is not good, and dealers are anxious to get hold of that laid down earlier. As remarked above, there is a little weakness apparent to-day. We quote as follows:

Chemung, Sussex, and Chenango Counties dairies, firkins,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., 38c. @ 42c.; Chautauque, Cayuga, and Delaware counties dairies, do. do., 37c. @ 40c.; Broome, Cortland, Steuben, and other counties do. do., 36c. @ 38c.; Lewis, and Jefferson dairies, Welsh tubs, 38c. @ 38c.; ordinary State do. firkins, 34c. @ 36c.; ordinary State do. Welsh tubs, 34c. @ 36c.; half-firkin tubs State dairies, fine to extra, 38c. @ 42c.; half-firkin tubs State dairies, fair to good, 35c. @ 38c.; Northern Pennsylvania dairies, firkins and tubs, 34c. @ 36c.; Orange, Sussex, and Pennsylvania, fresh pails, 40c. @ 50c.; Western reserve, firkins, good to prime, 27c. @ 30c.; Chicago and Northwestern, firkins, good to prime, 24c. @ 26c.

**CHEESE**—Receipts of 21,637 boxes for the week, with shipments of only 9,531, show an accumulation of stock; still, the supply on hand is much lighter than at this time last season. There is a firm feeling in the country, strengthened by occasional sales, such as the Cascade, at the factory, for 16c., or the Plymouth, still higher, and quite above what shippers would pay were it thrown upon the market here. A sharp competition for certain factories is probably much more beneficial to the factories themselves than to those who buy the stock. The small amount sent abroad shows that shippers have been doing very little. They give as a reason the advance in freights, and the overstocked markets abroad, English cheese coming largely into competition with American. It is generally believed that after a few weeks the feeling will be stronger abroad, and shippers again come forward. We quote as follows:

Factory dairies, fancy and Cheddar shapes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  @ 17c.; factory dairies, fine quality, do., 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  @ 16c.; factory dairies, common to fair quality, do., 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  @ 15c.; farm dairies, fancy and extra quality, do., 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  @ 16c.; farm dairies, fair to good, do., 14c. @ 15c.; farm dairies, common, do., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  @ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  c.; Orange county skimmed cheese, do., 8c. @ 11c.

**ASHES**—Continue in moderate demand at \$10.25 @ \$10.37 for pots, and \$12.50 for pearls,  $\frac{1}{2}$  100 lbs.

**APPLES**—Apples have not been coming forward as freely for a few days past, and a little advance is noted, some fine lots selling at \$4, though few go above \$3.75. They are generally very good this season. It is questionable whether the advance can be sustained. Grapes are going off quicker at the old rates, and the stock is kept down. The poor Ohio Catawbas were cleared off at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. @ 4c. per lb., little more than paying freight. Owners of such should have seen them as they opened here. Ice-house Bartlett pears are selling at \$5 @ \$11  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl., while fine Virgalienus bring \$16 @ \$18. Cranberries are nearly unchanged, some prime bringing a little more than quoted. They are selling pretty freely. The stock in the country is known to be large, and it

would be an easy matter to break down the market here. Some fine Boston Duchesse pears are selling at \$8@10  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel. We quote:

Apples, fine State,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl., \$3.50@3.75; common, do., \$2a@2.50, cranberries, extra, do., \$10.50@11.50; ordinary to good, do., \$8a@9; poor, do., \$6a@7; grapes, Isabella,  $\frac{1}{2}$  B., 8c.a10c.; common 6c.a8c.; Diana, 16c.a18c.; Catawbas, 14c.a16c.; pears, cooking  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl., \$5a@8; Duchesse, do., \$12a20; Seckel, \$15a18; quinces, fine, apple, per bbl., \$10a12; pear, fine, do., \$7a10; common, do., \$3a5.

EGGS—Receipts, 3,397 bbls., or a slight increase over last week. There is a fair demand, and it is easier to sell those of known reputation at the mark—say 81c. for Ohio—though the majority are still sold with loss off, or candled before turning out. They are 1c. higher than last week. We quote: N. J., L. I. and Pa., fresh, per dozen, 84c.; State, good, loss off, do., 82c.a88c.; Western, loss off, do., 92c.a88c.; egg oats, per bush., good, 55a60c.

HAY—North river bale continues in moderate demand at 70c. @75c. for shipping, and \$1.00@1.40 for local use, per 100 lbs. Straw is in rather better request at 60c.@95c. per 100 lbs.

PEAS AND BEANS—The upward turn in the bean market still continues, prices having advanced nearly \$1 per bush. within three weeks, owing to light receipts. Peas, too, are higher. We quote: Beans, new mediums, choice, per bushel, \$3.90a4; marrows, and pea new, prime, \$4a4.15; old beans, fair, \$2.50a2.75; inferior, \$2a2.25. Canada in bond, \$1.45a\$1.50.

POULTRY—Producers who understand their own interests as well as they should, will retain their poultry at home, fatten every fowl thoroughly, as all kinds of fowl are in large supply, with light demand, at lower rates:

Turkeys, 18c.@20c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  B.; fowls,  $\frac{1}{2}$  B., 14c.@15c.; spring chickens,  $\frac{1}{2}$  B., 15c.@17c.; geese,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pair, \$2.00@2.75; ducks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pair, 70c.@1.25; pigeons, flight, per doz., \$1.50@2.00; partridge, per pair, \$1@1.25.

POTATOES—Are abundant and sell slowly, at the following quotations

Buckeyes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl., \$2.00@2.25; peachblows, do., \$2.25@2.75; Dyckmans, do., \$2.00@2.25; Jackson whites, do., \$2.25@2.50; Mercers, do., \$2.25@2.75; Delaware sweet, do., \$2.75@4; Virginia sweet, do., \$3.00@3.50; onions, do., \$2@2.50; turnips, Russia, do., \$2.50@3.00; cabbages, per 100, \$6.00@8; tomatoes, per basket, 70c.@1.25; squashes, marrow, per barrel, \$2.00@2.75; pumpkins, per 100, \$4@10.

WOOL—The wool market is very dull. Domestic fleeces are selling slowly as follows: Saxony, 48c.a58c. per lb.; merino, 44c.a48a; half blood merino, 43c.a46c.; common fleeces, 39c.a43c.

### Special Notices.

Do not fail to read the Prospectus of The Northwestern Farmer in another column.

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RATES OF ADVERTISING.—Advertisements of interest to farmers, will be inserted in THE AMERICAN FARMER for 25 cents a line, or \$2.50 per square of 10 lines, each insertion, payable in advance. To secure insertion, they should be sent in by the 18th of the previous month. THE FARMER has subscribers in every State, and nearly every Territory. There is no better or cheaper medium for advertising everything of general interest to rural residents in all parts of the United States and Canada. Special notices, 50 cents per line.

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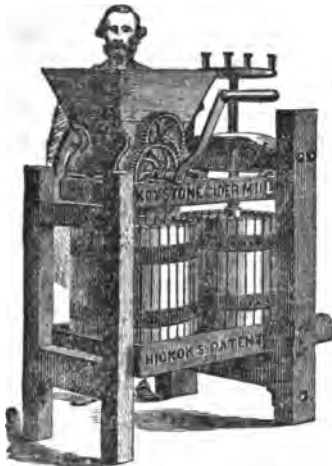
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JOHN TURNER, Publisher and Proprietor,  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

# THE AMERICAN FARMER

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VOLUME II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1867.

No 12.



Speak low; the old year falls,  
And dally totters on his yielding throne.  
A few brief days shall pass ere sceptered hand,  
And crown, and all the signs of royal power  
Shall change to mark the new-born ruling king.  
December closes in the annual train,  
And ends the cycle of the dying year.  
A solemn stillness fills the air and earth,  
Like southern skies ere bursts the raging storm,  
Or brooding silence, deep, which ushers in  
The earthquake shock, and numbs the pulse of life.  
So, silent dies the aged year, and leaves  
A noble heritage of coming days  
To fill the youthful monarch's throne up.  
Farewell the old; let fruitless by-gones die,  
Prepare with smiles to welcome in the new  
And crave a benison on our future days.

Belfast, Me.

G. E. B.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

OUT door work on the farm is drawing to a close, the crops are all safely gathered, and the land now left to the action of frost, and to recuperate for the next season; but still there are often days during the fore part of December when work can be advantageously done in the fields, and when, if possible, plowing should be continued, and the land turned up to the action of the frost, and got ready for earlier working in the spring. The principal labor of this month should be the proper

**PROTECTION AND CARE OF STOCK.**—See to it that all animals are provided with suitable shelter in good comfortable quarters. It pays best to keep animals in good thriving condition, so give them a little extra care and feed this month, and you will reap your reward.

**IMPLEMENTS AND TOOLS**—should now be looked over and put away in a dry room, and wet stormy days may profitably be spent in repairing any that are broken and in oiling those that require it. The tool house should have a place for everything and

during winter, may be spent with great comfort and profit in getting them ready for use in the spring.

**BEEES.**—Where no special place is provided for wintering bees, they may be safely kept in a dark dry cellar. If let on the stand, out-doors, protect them with boards or bundles of straw, placed so as to keep off wind and rain.

**FARMERS' CLUBS**—should be started these winter evenings in every town where there is not one organized. Let an energetic man in every locality take hold of the matter, and after conferring with his neighbors, appoint a meeting and organize. Let subjects for discussion be selected, and a good friendly feeling be originated amongst neighbors, and much good will be the result. Another important item at this season of the year, is *the duty of farmers attending the*

**ANNUAL MEETING**—of agricultural societies. We heard many complaints at the late fairs by farmers in regard to the management of different societies, and if farmers desire a change in the programme, they must in the first place feel their responsibility and their duty to attend the annual meetings for the election of officers, and place good practical men in the positions—men who will see to a good premium list being made out in favor of agricultural produce, stock, &c., and not one encouraging horse racing and its accompanying evils.

**STUDY.**—Devote the evening of the year to careful thought and study. Take a retrospective view of the labors of the past "seed time and harvest," make an estimate of the profit and loss of the crops produced, stock, &c., and let us learn what we have gained and wherein lost. Secure a good farm record and account book to commence the new year, in which to note all expenses, improvements, and other items of farm management. Secure good agricultural and horticultural books to read during the long winter evenings, renew your subscription for the coming year for *THE AMERICAN FARMER*, that we may have the pleasure in our next, of

## NOTES, BY "S. W."

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

## THE SEASON.

Since the 4th of July we have had very little rain, only a few light showers, not one of which penetrated the soil two inches. I never knew the sub-soil so dry before on the 13th of October. Pasturage has been very short for the last two months, now especially on clay soils, it is as verdureless as in the winter months. Farmers have had to feed corn stalks to their cows for some time, and although the hay crop was large, it is held by farmers for a high price. Wheat was a good crop; corn, oats, and barley generally short; yet there are some fields of excellent corn—proof that a maximum crop of corn may be grown here in Seneca county, in the driest season, on a well-drained, highly manured soil; provided always that it is planted early, and cultivated. I never had a better yield of garden corn and Lima beans.

## THE GARDEN AND THE SEASON.

As less rain has fallen in this region from the 4th day of July to the 12th of November, than ever fell before in the same time, it may be well to state the effect on the best of garden culture on a well under-drained, highly manured and thoroughly ameliorated calcareous clay loam. Sweet corn planted May 10th, was a large crop, the ears filling to the tip end of the cob. Lima beans also a full crop, blood turnip beets early planted, measured in some specimens eight inches across, but long beets, carrots, and mangels were below medium size and length; beans being early planted, were also a good crop; cabbages headed well generally, but the heads were unusually small; cucumbers, although watered often, gave a small yield; tomatoes, in part owing to the cool wet spring, ripened a month later than usual, and with only a moderate yield; they need moisture as well as heat to mature them. Of fruits, currants and strawberries gave a good crop, raspberries needed rain, Antwerp's doing much better than the Black Caps. We had neither plums nor cherries; Bartlett pears wormy, but the yield good; grapes, a short and poor crop. Our last young apple trees were killed by borers at their second fruiting. We have had no fall grazing; milch cows have been soiled with corn stalks, &c., since August, and many farmers now drive their cattle to the outlet to water, as wells and cisterns both fail.

## MANURE AND FALL TRENCH YOUR GARDEN.

This must now necessarily be put off until the ground is softened by rain; but it never should be neglected until the ground is frozen for the winter. Fall plowing and trenching tenaceous soil, leaves the large surface of the ridges exposed to the disin-

tegration of winter freezing, and it also lets in atmospheric air to enrich the soil with its nitric acid. M. Barral, editor of *D'Agriculture Pratique*, found by his late experiments, that the influence of porous bodies of earth in producing nitrates, was very great, particularly when the absorbent power of the soil was increased by manure, as then the soil becomes *ironified*, a condition that decomposes atmospheric air. He also proved by direct analysis, that underdraining, by making the soil more permeable to air, also facilitates the production of nitrates, the more especially as such a soil may be deeply plowed, and thus made the more amenable to atmospheric influence.

## SAVE THE FALLEN LEAVES.

I suppose there can be no doubt that leaves contain at least six times as much nitrogen and phosphoric acid as wheat straw; yet within the last few weeks all our streets have been raked of fallen leaves by boys, to make bonfires at night all over the village. In one instance, I remonstrated with a man who raked his sidewalk and yard of leaves, and instead of composting them in his garden, made a huge pile in the street for the boys to burn; his reply was, "Leaves ain't manure! You can't make me believe in book farming!"

"When ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise."

Per contra, I asked a farmer who has grown a Joseph Wright crop of corn this very dry season, his "*modus operandi*." He replied, "By manure from cattle bedded through the winter on leaves and their equivalent, dry swamp muck."

Prof. Dana says a barren sandy knoll may be easily made fertile by spreading swamp muck on it; this he says, "causes the evolution of carbonic acid gas, that decomposes the silicate of potash in the sand, and the free potash converts the insoluble into the soluble manure." He might also have said that the large percentage of nitrogen in the muck, was also a solvent of other matters both in the muck and soil, into soluble plant food. As a very small percentage of nitrogen is found on analysis in the organism of plants, there can be no doubt I take it, that the great office of this the most expensive of the organic elements, is its power to combine with and to render soluble other matters in the soil.

## A MANURE EQUAL TO PERUVIAN GUANO.

H. W. Risley, a planter who has had great experience with commercial manures, sends to *The Southern Cultivator* the following receipt, by which he says a manure equal to Peruvian guano, may be made at the expense of \$16 to \$20 the ton. First gather any quantity of swamp muck into a covered pit to dry: measure six barrels of this into another

pile when dry, and add the following salts previously dissolved in a barrel or more of water, viz.:—40 lbs. nitrate of soda, 60 lbs. sulphate of ammonia, 1-2 bushel of common salt; then add one barrel of wood ashes, one barrel of plaster of Paris, and another of ground bones. Mix all well together, and use in the same manner as Peruvian guano.

### A NOVEMBER CONVERSATION.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. E. BRACKETT,  
BELFAST, MAINE.

"LOAFING to-day, Smith?"

"Well, yes; there ain't nothin' to do on a farm now times, you know. I'm going over to the corner this afternoon."

"Nothing to do! You are ahead of my time, sure. I never yet saw the time when there was nothing to do on my farm. You are lucky, I must say; but are you quite sure there's nothing that needs to be done?"

"I mean there's nothin' drivin'."

"Oh, that's it; that changes the matter. Now, Smith, I believe it good policy to keep so well along and ahead of work as to have no driving, if possible, instead of waiting till it begins to drive. I'm afraid the fact is, you don't see what is needed to be done, or rather what should be done; and I'm inclined to believe also that you are a little too willing to shut your eyes and forget for the time that such and such a matter could be better attended to now, than to wait till the time is up, and instead of your driving work it drives you. I know it's November, and the especial farm work, the planting, hoeing, and harvesting, is over; but those are not all the branches that require seeing to. Farm work is complex, and I hold that the prudent, careful, successful farmer, never sees the time when he can fold his arms and say, There's nothing more to be done."

"The boys can do up most of the odd jobs before cold weather sets in."

"Yes, the boys can do much, but the man can do more, and in better form. There is one particular job to be done at this season, and that is, fixing up for winter. This is a large work, made up of many comparatively trifling jobs and bits of work and care, which of themselves do not seem to be of much importance; but which in the aggregate amount to what often has a great bearing upon one's well being during the winter months."

"Donno, but I've got 'bout everything fixed up."

"Got your grain all threshed?"

"All but my oats. Shall pound them out in the cold days, and save pitchin' the fodder over much, as I can feed it right out to the stock."

"Don't you know you are losing ten per cent of the value and amount of your oats every month it

remains in the straw in the barn. The fowls are running over it, and the mice are destroying it so that between them they will leave so little that you will be telling me next spring that it don't pay to raise oats."

"Perhaps so, but I don't think much of them threshing machines."

"Have you made your barn, and particularly your stables, all tight and warm for winter?"

"Hav'nt done nothin' to my barn; some say cattle don't do so well in warm barns."

"All fudge! Of course there can be such a thing as a stable too tight and warm for the health and benefit of the animals—but you never need be afraid of reaching that extreme, at least as long as old Boreas owns a right of way through the leanto. Fix up warm; batten, and board, and shingle, and bank up. You can make money by it."

"Make money! I can't see it."

"I suppose not. Well, the facts are that stock kept in a warm barn, properly ventilated, not only come out in better order in the spring, but they require much less hay and fodder to keep them through the cold weather."

"My stock always eat all I give them."

"No doubt of that. But let me put a few more feelers. How about your winter's firewood?"

"O, I cut that as I want it. Comes up easy on the snow, you know. I can haul twice as much at a load as I can on the wheel."

"Granted; but how does it operate in the kitchen?"

"Well, the women folks grumble some, but they can't expect to have everything just right."

"No, of course not; but they do have a right to expect decent fuel to make a fire to cook with, and to warm the house. A man who will furnish only green wood for winter use, is acting a small part of a heathen. It may not be convenient to have all dry, seasoned wood, prepared for the stoves, but every farmer can look out to have on hand *some* dry wood, and at least plenty of good kindling."

"How long before you will commence to tie up your cattle, nights?"

"I put mine in the stable now. It's but little more trouble, and I think they do better. Horses and colts, and young stock in particular, need shelter during our late cold rain storms. Why, in my opinion, they will lose more flesh by being exposed over night to a cold storm, than they would gain in ten days at this season."

"Going to sell any stock this fall?"

"Only some beeves. I want to buy some young stock, and match up some calves and yearling steers."

"Pretty high, ain't they?"

"Yes, the price of all kinds of stock is well up, account of the heavy hay crop."

"'Spose hay won't be worth much next spring?"

"Don't know about it's being so low as some farmers prophecy. I wouldn't take less than \$15 a ton for what good hay I have to spare next spring. I wouldn't buy any more young stock if I hadn't such a large lot of fodder to use."

"Going to keep all your sheep?"

"Yes; or, that is, I shall keep my flock good—up to twenty-five. I think that about the number it will pay a common farmer to keep."

"How much did yours pay you last year?"

"My flock paid me just \$85, as follows:—Twenty lambs at \$2.25 each—\$45; and 87 1-2 lbs. wool, which is 8 1-2 lbs. per head, which sold at 45 cents a pound, making \$40 more. Total, \$85, as the product of 25 sheep."

"Hauled in any of your potatoes yet?"

"No, I never do much marketing until sledding. I can do it on runners so much easier and cheaper, even if the market is a little lower, which is not always the fact, by any means. I suppose your boys are all at school?"

"Well, no; but I guess they'll go by next week."

"That's wrong, entirely wrong. Farmers' boys have so little chance to get an education that they should have every day and hour possible. The district school is almost their only privilege, and if they are denied that, they stand a poor chance of getting any learning. Let them attend during the whole term regularly; and further, see that they have all the necessary books and materials, and last though not least, a good teacher. But, good morning neighbor; I must go to work, or I shall soon find my work driving me.

## MYSTERIES OF THE MICROSCOPE.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY THE LATE E. C. KENDALL.

NOT that there is any especial hidden mystery in the innocent looking, modest little instrument that presents objects to us as they really are, making huge monsters out of mere mites, and as often presenting most magnificent animals, in what, to the unaided eye, appears an uncouth atom. The mystery is of the microscope. Its power, to our intelligence, as at present educated, is unintelligible, and would be magical, but that we know the microscope to be innocent of the black art, and the maker only a man like ourselves—a trifle more clever perhaps, but not a mite of a magician. So much of thought is invoked by the advent of a red mite upon the edge of the white sheet now under the point of my pen, and the ruby dot, a mere point to the naked eye, hurrying over the white field a perfect crimson streak. If a man were to run at that rate, according to bulk, he would get over the round about a thousand miles an hour, and race

entirely round the world in a day and night, with three hours left for refreshment.

Arresting the atomic red runaway, and clapping him under my *semper paratus* Craig microscope, in an instant I had under my eye, a wonder—a bright crimson bird—wingless like the penguin, but perfect in proportions, and of most exquisite beauty; its downy plumage, downy and brilliantly bright, its six perfect bird legs—three set on either side. I saw there the secret of the rapid race: fancy a turkey gobbler with six legs, each one putting in its quota of speed! Would't the old fellow outrun a hurricane? Then there are the five white delicate toes, more like a fair lady's fingers, to each foot, black, lustrous eyes, and beak like that of the great "war eagle"—all harmonious; but strange, very wonderful—mysterious—the manner in which that single bit of clear glass metamorphoses the tiny red mite into a great, magnificent bird. There, go out with you, and go your way, diminished to a red atom, almost infinitesimal again. Send—scatter—crimson speck! and leave me to my say, of my magnifying miracle.

Before I was the proprietor of this Craig glass for which I paid \$2.50, I had for ten years used a French instrument which cost me, I think, \$55, of feeble power and less reliable. With the French "*Cressaix*," I searched long and fruitlessly for the *trichina spiralis*, that savants guessed was in our American pork. With the \$2.50 Craig I laid hold of it plainly and positively at the second trial. That was two years ago this month. Is it recorded that any one had discovered the pork pests earlier than that date? If not, then they were first found under an American microscope, and so much for the skill and ingenuity of American mechanism.

For the farmer and fruit grower especially, these simple, practical instruments are invaluable, and to their children a source of education, amusement, and real instructive pleasure, of which they will never grow weary. A bright little girl of ten years, daughter of a farmer friend, to whom I loaned mine, actually acquired a fuller and more correct knowledge of half a hundred insect inhabitants of her neighborhood, in six weeks practice with the microscope, than a professed entomologist, principal of a neighboring seminary, had acquired in thirty years of study.

MR. SHERMAN HARTWELL, of Washington, Litchfield county, Ct., has purchased four Cotswold ewes of George D. Parrish, of Burlington, N. J., being part of the importation of the late Mr. Richardson, bred by William Hewer, Northleach, England.

MORE food is required for the domestic animals of the country, than for the whole population.



MADE CASHMERE GOAT.

**CASHMERE COATS.**

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY "W. D. D.," SPENCER, O.

I now propose to give to the readers of THE FARMER, as briefly as possible, my experience in the breeding and raising of goats, including that of others, as portrayed in the Report of the Department of Agriculture for 1863.

Goats commence breeding very young, indeed I have known them to drop kids twice before they were twenty months old, but do not think it advisable for them to breed so young, as it produces animals of inferior quality. If left to their own inclination, they prefer the coarsest kinds of food, such as briars, brush, and weeds, to the best hay.

They are very fond of rambling, and thrive best when they have a large range to ramble over; but must be provided with suitable shelter to protect them from storms and inclement weather. It is said they will run for miles at the approach of a storm to their accustomed shelter.

As to jumping or climbing fences, I never have had any trouble with them, our farm being fenced with rails. They have as yet to get into mischief. Some say we cannot fence against them with rails, but if you have a good fence, there will be no trouble with them. If there were but one or two kept in a place, they might be troublesome, but if a

flock is kept, there will be no more trouble than with a flock of sheep. They will invariably return home at night. Mine have never missed a night since I first commenced to keep goats.

They will shear from about 3 lbs. to 7 lbs. per head, (3 lbs. for does, and 7 lb. for bucks.) The wool is exceedingly valuable. A friend of mine who has a large flock, informs me that he has been offered six dollars per pound for this year's clip, but is still holding it, expecting a still larger figure.

Mr. I. S. Diehl, who is now in Asia, purchasing goats, writes *The Stock Journal* that there are in Asia Minor one million and a half of goats, and that the wool is largely imported into Europe, where it is manufactured; that in Asia it brings 400 per cent higher price than wool. He also writes that machinery and men to work it, can be procured to come to the States; and that looms cost but \$15 to \$30. Probably at no distant day we shall manufacture our own Cashmere shawls, &c., which will greatly enhance the value of goats in this country. At present they are among the most, if not the most valuable of our domestic animals. I now append the opinion of some of the most extensive breeders in the United States.

R. W. Scott, near Frankfort, Kentucky, in the report of 1863, says that he "has a flock of 80 heads of all grades, from half bloods to pure breeds, and



there is not a sickly one among them, and few that are not fit for mutton. So far, I have found them free from disease, nothing like it having appeared in the flock except an occasional humor in the cleft of the foot, which yields readily to the application of turpentine or bluestone."

"A peculiar small vermin has sometimes infested them in spring, requiring the application of flour of sulphur and grease along the spine, and in spots about the skin of the body.

"I have found them not only healthy, but prolific, the females doubling their number each season. Grade ewes are more prolific than full bloods or pure breeds. The former frequently raise three kids, the latter but one. They do not obtain their growth until they are two years old. Their flesh is tender, sweet, juicy, and high flavored, resembling that of sheep more than any other animal." Here I disagree with him. I think it more nearly resembles a fine quality of beef than mutton. "During two or three months of summer they all wear a covering of coarse short hair, which in turn drops out gradually, giving place to the fine wool, which attains its growth by spring, when it should be shorn after the cold weather is passed, and before the coarse hair has begun to grow into the fleece. I intend to keep about one hundred, assured by experience so far, that they will greatly exceed sheep in value of fleece, which is from 4 lbs. to 8 lbs. in weight annually."

I also enclose the experience of Mr. Walker, of Mo.: "They have stood the cold weather of this winter better than any other stock we have. They are very hardy, and increase rapidly. The does take great care of their young. The cost of keeping them is less than any other animal. They graze upon coarse herbs that are not eaten by any other stock, such as iron weed, dock, mullen, briers, buds, and broken sprouts. Their wool possesses the highest felting qualities. My buck sheared 9 3/4 lbs. My pure bred doe, 5 lbs." The experience of the above is fully corroborated by my own.

**CURE FOR THE BITE OF A MAD DOG.**—Some six or seven years ago, some cattle were bitten by a mad dog in an adjoining township. After some had run mad and died, an old German administered a dose of copper filings to two three-year old steers that had had two or three fits or spasms, and it effectually cured them. Last winter I became acquainted with a gentleman who had been bitten some twenty years since by a rabid dog. After the usual time had expired, he was taken ill, which soon developed all the signs of hydrophobia after having a couple of spasms or fits. He was cured by taking half a teaspoonful of copper filings.—*W. D. D.*

## KERRY CATTLE.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY D. F. APPLETON.

I have read with much interest the prize essay on Kerry cattle published in your September number, and the subsequent corrections by Mr. Sandford Howard, who is undoubted authority on this subject. I should have expected of him, however, to go further, and defend his favorite breed against the charge made by the late Mr. Kendall, of being "ugly." I have taken some pains to see most of the few cattle of this breed that are to be found in this country, and I have not seen one that answers to Mr. Kendall's description of "stump-tailed, sway-backed, and crumple-horned." On the contrary, they are remarkable for symmetry of form, with clean, smooth horns, branching outwards and upwards, (rather larger than Mr. Howard's description would indicate,) and tails fine and neat, terminating in a beautifully formed tassel that touches the ground.

On the whole, I think it would be difficult to find any animals of the bovine species so beautiful to the eye as some specimens of this breed that I have seen. I will mention two imported cows, to be seen on the "Green Hill" farm, Worcester, Mass., the property of Andrew H. Green, Esq., of the New York Central Park Commission.

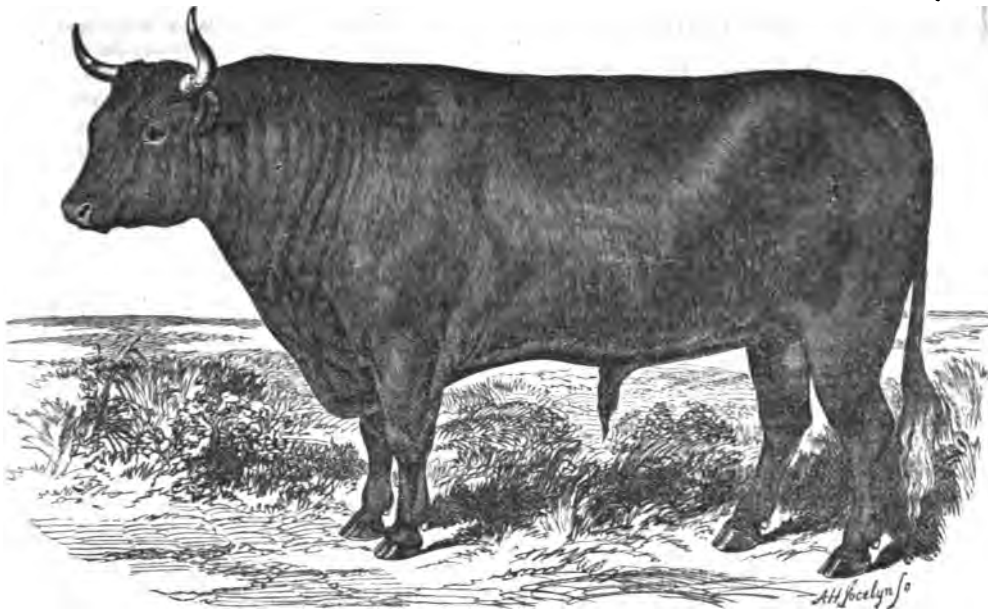
I have a herd of about a dozen pure-bred Kerries, of all ages on my farm at Ipswich, Massachusetts, the progeny of the importation to which Mr. Howard refers as having been purchased in Ireland by him, and I can heartily confirm all that he has said of them, and add what perhaps he has not had an opportunity to observe, namely, that they mature earlier, and attain to a greater size, with improved feed and care, making them more valuable for beef than they have been supposed to be. They keep in good condition and thrive, giving a large quantity of rich milk, (considering their size,) on fare that would starve any other pure-bred stock that I know of.

They are generally of a glossy, jet black color, though sometimes red, brindle, or brown.

I believe that the experiments which are now being tried with these cattle, will demonstrate that they are better adapted to the hill pastures and poor fare of average New England farms, than any other breed.

A man in Massillon, O., washed his sheep last spring by swimming them, and found it to work well, saving labor, and making the wool cleaner than hand-washing.

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**DEVON BULL "HURON." (E. 652.) (A. 604.)**

Bred by Edward G. Falle, West Farms, Westchester County, N. Y. Sire and Dam imported from the herd of James Quarterly, England. The property of Walter Cole, Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y. Huron gained the first prize as a two-year old at the show of the New York Agricultural Society, at Albany, in 1859—also the First Prize of \$50 at the New England Cattle Show of 1864.

### THE HOP CROP THIS YEAR.

THE circular of a leading firm at Worcester, England, expresses the opinion that owing to the rains of last winter and spring, and subsequent attacks of insects and the blight, the hop crop was so much injured that the unusually fine weather from Aug. 15th on, could not have brought the yield up to more than half that of 1866:

"Thus far our remarks apply to the kingdom. We will now write of our own particular locality, which at places was hard hit with blight; but singularly, some plantations almost entirely escaped aphids, or cleaning early, produce nearly an average yield, so that it will be seen the crop is very partial, and generally what is termed a top one, rendering it most liable to be over-estimated in quantity. Most growers have already bagged hops, furnish reliable data on which we can form an opinion of the yield; and, comparing this with other years, we conclude that the result of the present will be similar to that of 1854, when this district paid £8,100 old duty, and like that year this growth is remarkable for its excellency of quality, as in comparison with Kent, leading us to look for considerable competition to possess the best Worcestershire hops by pale and export ale brewers; for it is an indisputable fact that when grown good, as in this year, there are no

hops to equal them for their delicacy of flavor, as well as permanent strength; some of the happiest results in the production of pale ale being traced to the use of our hops. \* \* There are some choice hops grown in Bavaria. Bohemia also promises well; also the French frontier district. In Belgium there is a partial crop, though Poperinghe promises an average yield. We do not expect many (if any) hops from America. \* \* Planters show no disposition to press sales, and express great dissatisfaction at the prices offered to them, many having an opinion that values are too low, considering that the yield on the favored grounds is 20 to 30 per cent below the estimate put on them before picking commenced. The market closed active and firm at fully 2s. to 4s. per cwt. advance on Saturday's rates, the present currency being—diseased and mismanaged samples, sold at irregular prices, from £7 to £9.15s.; clean grown Newcombe and red bines, £9.15s. to £10.5s.; fine grapes and ditto best mixed sorts, £10.5s. to £10.14s.; pure Mathon and Goldings, of choice quality, £11 to £12, all per cwt., cash at the scale."

A dressing of bone dust late in the fall is highly beneficial to lawns. It may be applied at the rate of a ton to the acre. Plaster should be sown at the same time, at the rate of two bushels to the acre.

## Horticultural.

### CULTIVATION OF PARLOR PLANTS.

EXTRACT FROM LECTURES DELIVERED TO THE LADIES OF THE TRACT FEMALE SOCIETY, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM WENSTER.

In taking a retrospective glance at our former lectures, you will observe that I have dwelt more on the cultivation of varieties than on their propagation. To increase the number of varieties of plants, or to raise new ones, requires a considerable degree of knowledge on the part of the cultivator, of the different processes by which this may be effected. To understand more fully this process we must thoroughly inform ourselves in relation to the essential organs of reproduction in flowering plants.

The reproductive organs of a plant are the flower, the fruit, and the seed. In dissecting a flower, we have first the calyx or corolla; next the stamens and pistils. It is of the latter two, however, with which we have now to treat. The stamens of a flower are composed of two parts called the filament and anther. The filament is usually a long thread-like appendage, (which if we take the lily for an example,) may be seen supporting the anther on its apex. The anther consists of cells which contain small particles called pollen. This is a kind of yellow dust, in the mature state of the flower. The pollen swells until it bursts the cells of the anther, when it is thrown out and scattered around; or, as in the case of some flowers, the filaments are confined or compressed within certain limits, and which at the proper time spring from their confinement and straiten out, and in so doing thus scatter the pollen.

The pistil is composed of the ovary, style, and stigma. The pistil occupies the center of the flower, and may be represented as a pillar or column. The germ or ovary corresponding to the base of the pillar, the style to the shaft, and the stigma to the capital. The stigma communicates directly with the tissue of the pistil, and is always more or less moist or viscid. When the pollen bursts the anther, it is scattered, and coming in contact with the stigma, is absorbed by it, and from whence it passes through small tubes into the ovary. Thus are the parts impregnated and rendered fruitful.

When we wish to raise new varieties, we simply bring two or more of the older ones in contact during their inflorescence, and the pollen is either blown from one flower to the other, or carried thither by the bees and the result is that the perfected seeds from these plants produce fresh or different varieties; but if we wish to do it scientifically, or produce hybrids, we must cut away all the stamens from the flower which we desire to impregnate before the pollen escapes from them, and bring into close proximity such other flowers as we intend to fertilize them with, after cutting away the stigmas from them; not that this effect could not be accomplished if they were allowed to remain, but as a surer means of attaining success.

As to the other modes of propagation, they may be classified under the heads of suckers, layers, and cuttings, and by budding, grafting, and layering. But as I have already adverted to the latter in the case of the Camellia, it will be quite unnecessary for me to say anything more about that now. Briefly then as to the first. A number of the different species of shrubs and some kinds of roses, are easily propagated by separating the suckers or offsets from the parent plants, and planting them so that they may be torn from place. This is one of the easiest of all modes of propagation; but plants raised in this way are seldom as hardy as those raised from cuttings, for the reason that they are always prone to throw up a superabundance of suckers, which very materially weakens their trunks and the infirmness of the plants. You have no doubt frequently observed some kinds of trailing plants that lie close to the ground, like the *Veronica*, or those that are grown in a moist atmosphere, such as grape vines in a conservatory, that have a tendency to throw out a number of roots from their branches. Now, when roots that are emitted in this way come in contact with a suitable soil, they penetrate it very readily, and after doing this, one of such branches should be separated from the vine it would form an independent plant; this is a mode that is very generally adopted by nurserymen for increasing their stock; but there are many other kinds of plants which do not throw out roots in this way of themselves, that can be made to do so readily if their branches are slit near a joint, then placed in a cavity of the ground. This slit, which should be not less than two inches in length, is usually kept open by a hooked peg passed between the parts thus separated; and run into the ground to hold the branch in its place, and then covering it up again with the soil, the common way of performing the operation is by taking the branch in the left hand thus, and with a sharp knife held in the right, cut upwards and half through it. Now, when this is pegged down to the ground in the manner I have mentioned, the returning sap is arrested in its progress, and accumulates at the point, and forms along the edges of the incision a woody substance technically term a "callus," or rather the sap exudes from the wound, and it is from this exuded matter that the roots proceed. This is the way in which roses and many other plants are propagated by layers. The Chinese have a mode of layering in taking a ring of bark from a branch, and affixing a flower pot which is separated in two halves, to it, wedging the pot with mold, which is kept moist until the roots are rooted sufficiently to warrant the removal from the parent plant; but as this mode involves a great deal of care and trouble, it is scarcely worth our imitation. It makes but little difference in what way we assist a branch to form roots, providing we keep in view the important fact that it is the returning sap that is to be arrested in order to have an accumulation at one particular point for the formation of roots. Sometimes this is done by cutting half through a branch, or taking off a ring of bark, as I have described, or by twisting the branch so as to destroy a portion of the sap vessels, in order that there may be a plethora in the vessels at that place.

As my hour is about exhausted, I must pass over the different modes of propagation by cuttings, and make that the subject of another lecture, and will, in conclusion, merely give you an illustration of increasing varieties by budding. We will suppose this to be a branch of a wild rose, which in its present condition is of no use to you, and yet you would like to make it so; and we will further suppose that you have a favorite rose that you esteem highly and the time the month of August or September, by making a horizontal cut just through the bark of the wild stock, and a longitudinal one connecting with it, thus:—You take the point of your knife and raise the bark; then cut from a branch of your favorite rose a well-developed bud which is separated with a thin slice of bark. Should there be a small portion of the wood taken off with the bark, it must be taken out with the point of the knife without injuring the other parts. The bud must now be inserted under the bark of the wild one, and be securely fastened by a string of bark. In about a month the two will unite, when the top of the wild stock may be cut off just above the bud. If time did not fail me, I would enter more fully into the details of this mode; but I may have occasion to revert to the subject again at some future time.

## PINE TIMBER AND HOW TO GROW IT.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY D. C. SCOFIELD, ILL.

### NUMBER THREE.

In former numbers I have shown by facts that pine trees grow from very small plants, and within fifty years have bodies three feet in diameter. Now, I propose to show how to raise them.

1. They must be raised from the seeds found in the cones. The plants are as easily grown in most parts of Europe as the apple or maple here; but owing to our hot summer suns the seed bed must be partially shaded, which may be done by nailing common lath to strips of boards six or eight inches wide and half an inch apart, and placing the frames over the young plants, and only removing them the first summer when they require weeding. They may be bought at very low prices of European nurserymen and shipped to this country, and till very recently most American nurserymen have obtained a large portion of their evergreen plants from this source. Several varieties, such as the American Arbor Vitæ (or White Cedar,) hemlock, spruce, balsam, and white pine, are obtained from the open ground in our forests, and planted with a good degree of success. When obtained of nurserymen, it is better to get those which have been once or twice transplanted.

2. In the removal of evergreen plants or trees great care should be taken to keep the roots from exposure to a dry atmosphere. An exposure of five minutes to a dry wind or hot sun, would greatly endanger its life. The plants of deciduous trees have a watery sap, and most varieties will endure considerable exposure, but the resinous sap of all evergreens soon coagulates, and cannot be again restored, and the plant or tree perishes in consequence.

3. The planter should be attended by some one whose business it is to keep the roots of the plants moist, and hand them out as they are to be set. The earth around the roots should be packed with great firmness, and kept clean from weeds, with care to leave the roots undisturbed in the cultivation. It is better to cultivate in nursery rows till two or three feet high before setting in forest rows. Then plant from ten to twelve feet apart, and give annual culture till they protect themselves from the growth of grass and weeds. April till June, is the best season for transplanting.

4. Any variety of evergreens makes good protective belts, yet the American Arbor Vitæ is best, and may be planted nearer together. Four feet apart will make a complete wind brake, as the limbs will not die on the sides of the tree for many scores of years. No other evergreen will grow so closely, and the limbs and foliage live as this. The Norway Spruce forms a beautiful belt, but must be set eight or ten feet apart, and in two or three rows. And now, in conclusion of these few hints on the growing of pine timber, let me ask every farmer to make an estimate, and see whether he can beautify, protect, and render more comfortable his home, or more profitably invest for the future wants of his family in any other way.

**GRAFTING.**—Dr. Regel describes a new method of grafting as practiced by Herr Freundlich, one of the Russian court gardeners, with remarkable success. Instead of taking the cions from the previous year's wood, with the bud just beginning to swell, the still soft growing lateral shoots are selected when from half to 1 1/2 inch long, and either bark or tongue grafted, care being taken not to draw the ligature too tight, as they swell much more rapidly than hardwood cions. Success, he says, is certain, if care be taken that the sap of the stock is in motion at the time the operation is performed. He recommends this mode as superior to all others, especially for hard-wooded trees, such as quercus, fagus, &c., which are usually difficult to propagate from the old wood. New roses and other plants, which it is desirable to increase as rapidly as possible, may also be advantageously worked in the same manner.—*Florist and Pomologist*.

**GRAPEVINES.**—Should be pruned this month, or as soon as the leaves drop, and before severe cold sets in. The length of the canes, number of buds, &c., to each plant, must be regulated more by a good common-sense judgment of the strength of the vine and the variety, than by any set rule laid down in books. The Delaware, Mottled, and other short-jointed kinds, we have sometimes pruned to ten or twelve buds on a cane, and then when the spring came have rubbed out every other bud; but we can hardly advise the practice. The Clinton, Nortons, and others of their class, we have grown our best fruit upon by leaving long canes. Concord and Hartford Prolific have also given fine fruit by this manner of pruning. After pruning, leave the canes untied.—*Horticulturist*.

See our premium list on last page.

## ORCHARD CULTURE.

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY WM. J. THOMPSON, N. Y.

A short time since the question was asked me by a neighbor whether it would pay to plant an orchard, on account of the many enemies young orchards have to contend with. He thought it rather an uncertain business. I replied to him that undoubtedly it would pay, and well to—as I did not consider it any more risk than to raise a good crop of corn, provided we gave it the same care and attention we did the latter. One great drawback that prevents many farmers from planting fruit trees of all varieties, and thereby adding largely to the present and future value of their farms, is the poor prospect presented by the many stunted, half-starved, ill-shaped, and almost dead young orchards to be seen in many parts of the country. A standing witness against bad management. But, notwithstanding the disappointments many have met with, I would say, if you lack that source of profit and enjoyment which should adorn every farm—a good orchard—don't put off planting any longer, but make arrangements and plant one at once; you will find it a paying investment if properly cared for, not speaking of the growing beauty, it will add to your farm. In planting an orchard, it is necessary, in order to be successful, to bear in mind that what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well.

In the choice of the ground, select a *deep*, rich, and loamy soil, free from standing water, and protected as much as possible from cold northwest winds. In the selection of trees, get the best; they are the cheapest in the end. If convenient, it is best to go and get them yourself, and see that they are carefully taken up. If not, have your order filled by some reliable nurseryman, with the understanding that you are not to take any but first-class trees. Have them taken up with plenty of roots, well packed, and forwarded in the best manner, as the way in which they are taken up and planted, tends greatly toward future success.

In planting trees, let the matter have your personal supervision. Dig the holes large enough to admit of the roots being spread out in their natural position, without being crowded, filling up the interstices among the small roots with fine mold. The distance apart is a matter of opinion. Some think 25 feet none too close; others claim that they should be planted at a distance of 40 feet; but 33 feet each way I think about right. Be particular to have the trees range in the rows each way, as it is much pleasanter to cultivate the crops in it, than if the trees are irregular in the row, and is more pleasing to the eye.

As to the best varieties to plant, every one must be governed by the kinds that do best in his locality, though it might be safe to say, plant freely of the Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Esopus Spitzenberg, and Russet. For the first half dozen years raise no other but hoed crops, as the constant working of the ground with manure applied, will force a rapid growth. In case the trees make too rapid a growth, as they often times will under such treatment, it is a good plan to

down with grass for a couple of years, which checks

them and brings them to bearing sooner. Above all things, exclude all animals, large and small, as many a young orchard has been sadly mutilated, and two or three year's growth on some trees destroyed in a few hours time by the ravages of animals.

It is also necessary to bear in mind that some system of pruning must be exercised to keep the young trees in proper shape, (that of an inverted umbrella is the best,) and raise good crops of perfect fruit. It is a good plan in early summer when the young shoots are starting, to pass through the orchard from tree to tree and pinch and rub off all unnecessary shoots; then again in the winter pass through and cut out all stragglers that may have started later in the summer. By pursuing this system a pocket knife is the largest instrument needed. An ax should never be used in an orchard, except for pruning at the root when the trees are dead.

In connection with the above, it is a good plan to apply a coat of whitewash, or a wash composed of one pound of soda to a gallon of water in early spring, as it removes all moss and scales, making a fine smooth bark. Keep up a war of extermination against all intruders, such as borers, caterpillars, &c., and with the blessing of an overruling Providence, you will have an orchard that you will be proud of, and a credit to you as an orchardist, in eight or ten years.

**BEST MARKET FRUITS FOR MISSOURI.**—*The Rural World* recommends as follows:—"The best red raspberry now in cultivation, for either family use or market culture, is the Philadelphia. The best black raspberry is the Doolittle. The best variety of the strawberry for market culture is Wilson's Albany. The New Rochelle (Lawton) Blackberry, as far as our experience extends, stands at the head of the list for market culture. The old Red Dutch Currant is hardier, stronger, and more productive and profitable, than any of its later rivals. The same may be said of the Houghton Seedling Gooseberry." The above would do for most localities. To the strawberries, we would add Triomphe de Gand and Jucunda; to blackberries, the Kittatinny and Wilson's Early; to gooseberries, Downing's Seedling, No. 1.

**STORING CABBAGE FOR WINTER.**—We know no better plan than to plant them heads down and roots up, covering the heads about an inch thick with soil. Brush wood or something of the sort may be put over to keep away the heaviest of the frost. They can be got out easily in winter as the crust of earth cracks like glass with a blow from a pick. Reversing them keeps out the water, and frost does not hurt when in the shade.—*Gardener's Monthly*.

**CORRECTION.**—In our report of the New York State Fair, we said: "Dr. Sylvester took the second premium on the forty varieties of apples," and also "the second premium on the twenty varieties of apples." It should have been *first* premium in both cases.

See premium list on another page.

## Ladies' Department.

### HOUSEHOLD CARES—No. 10.

In the last excellent market report, the writer recommends housekeepers to make, for the benefit of young America, "plenty of apple pies, with not too much sugar, no crust on the bottom, but little on top, and plenty of apples." Now, I fancy that "Young America" would not thank you for an apple pie made after these simple directions. There are a few important rules to be observed in making these kind of pies, which if not followed, will render an otherwise delicious pie a mass of insipid unbaked apples and dough. I have in my mind now, the case of a young friend, whose mother always made excellent English apple pies. In course of time, he took to himself a wife, and she being anxious to please her husband undertook to make pies like his mother; but alas, there is as much difference between her pies and his mother's, as between a ripe, well-seasoned Northern Spy and a poor crab apple. Thick pastry, covering a few half-baked apples in a shallow dish, without any cup in the middle, is a poor apology for a well made, deep apple pie. Well, you may say, how should they be made? In this wise. Procure an earthen dish about three inches deep, such a one as is suitable for a chicken pie. Invert in the middle an old coffee cup. Peel and quarter the apples, and place them all around the cup, allowing about a tablespoonful of sugar, and half a grated nutmeg, and nearly a pint of water. Cover with a good light pastry, pressing firmly all around the edge. Make a small incision in the pastry, just over the teacup, and bake in a good hot oven. When the crust is brown and well done, do not take out the pie, but open the oven doors and let it remain for two or three hours, when set to cool, for it is much nicer eaten cold. Remember, when you cut the pie preparatory to eating, to lift the cup in order to allow the juice to escape, which is the best part of the pie. Apropos of using so many apples. I have a six-gallon crock in my pantry, in which all the peelings, after being chopped in the bowl, are placed and covered with cold rain water. It makes excellent pale vinegar.

I intend to tell the readers of *THE FARMER* something, which if used, will be of great benefit to them those cold and bitter days that are surely coming. When dressing for a ride to the city or to church, before putting on your outside garment, fold a good-sized paper across your shoulder and chest, and see how warm and comfortable you will be, even when facing a piercing wind. The principle is this. The outside air cannot penetrate the paper, and the inside air which is warmed from your body, cannot easily escape, and so must remain around the body, keeping you warm and comfortable. If you are incredulous, try it once, and learn from experience, that best of teachers.

I sent you a few months since a receipt for skinning peaches without paring, and which you published. If any of your readers intend making onion pickle this

fall, they will be glad to know that the skins may be removed from the onions in the same way; or by merely pouring over them a strong boiling lye, and allowing them to remain for an hour or so.

AUNT ROSA.

### DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

**HOW TO PREVENT WET FEET.**—A lady sends us the following, copied from an old receipt book. We shall give it a trial, and hope any of our readers will report their experience after giving it a fair trial:

"I have had three pair of boots for the last six years, (no shoes,) and I think I shall not require any more for the next six years to come. The reason is that I treat them in the following manner: I put a pound of tallow and a half pound of rosin in a pot on the fire; when melted and mixed, I warm the boots and apply the hot stuff with a painter's brush until neither the sole nor upper leather will suck any more. If it is desired that the boots should immediately take a polish, dissolve an ounce of wax in a teaspoonful of lamp black, a day after the boots have been treated with the tallow and rosin, rub over them this wax in turpentine, but not before the fire. Thus the exterior will have a coat of wax alone, and shine like a mirror. Tallow or other grease, becomes rancid, and rots the stitching as well as leather; but the rosin gives it an antiseptic quality which preserves the whole. Boots and shoes should be so large as to admit of wearing cork soles. Cork is so bad a conductor of heat that with it in boots the feet are always warm on the coldest stone floor."

**CORN CAKES.**—Six eggs well beaten, one pint milk, one teaspoonful salt, two pints mush almost cold, two pints meal, three tablespoonsful melted lard. Grease the pan. One spoonful in each cake. Do not let them touch in baking. Corn muffins in the same way, only two pints of flour baked in hoops.

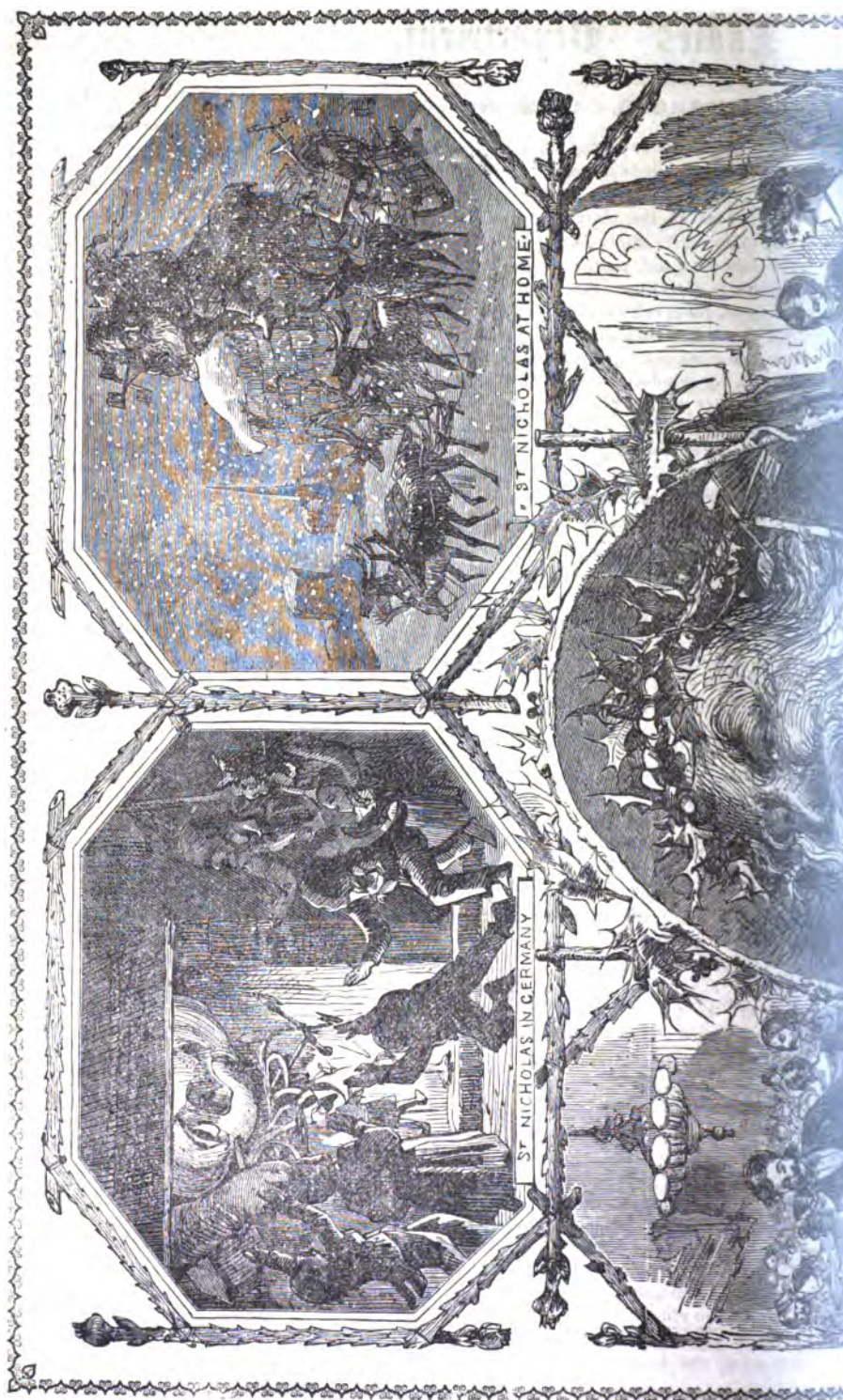
**PREPARING MOLASSES TO PRESERVE FRUIT.**—For preparing molasses for preserving fruit, which renders it much better suited for that purpose than a sirup prepared from the best loaf sugar, as it is not so liable to candy, nor it well prepared, to ferment. Take eight pounds molasses, bright New Orleans, or sugar-house, eight pounds pure water, one pound coarsely powdered charcoal, boil for twenty minutes, then strain through fine flannel double, put it again in a kettle with the white of an egg, and boil gently, till it forms a sirup of proper consistence, and strain again.

**CIDER CAKE.**—One pound and a half of flour, half a pound sugar, a quarter pound butter, half a pint of cider, one teaspoonful of soda. Spice to your taste. Bake till it turns easily in the pans half an hour.

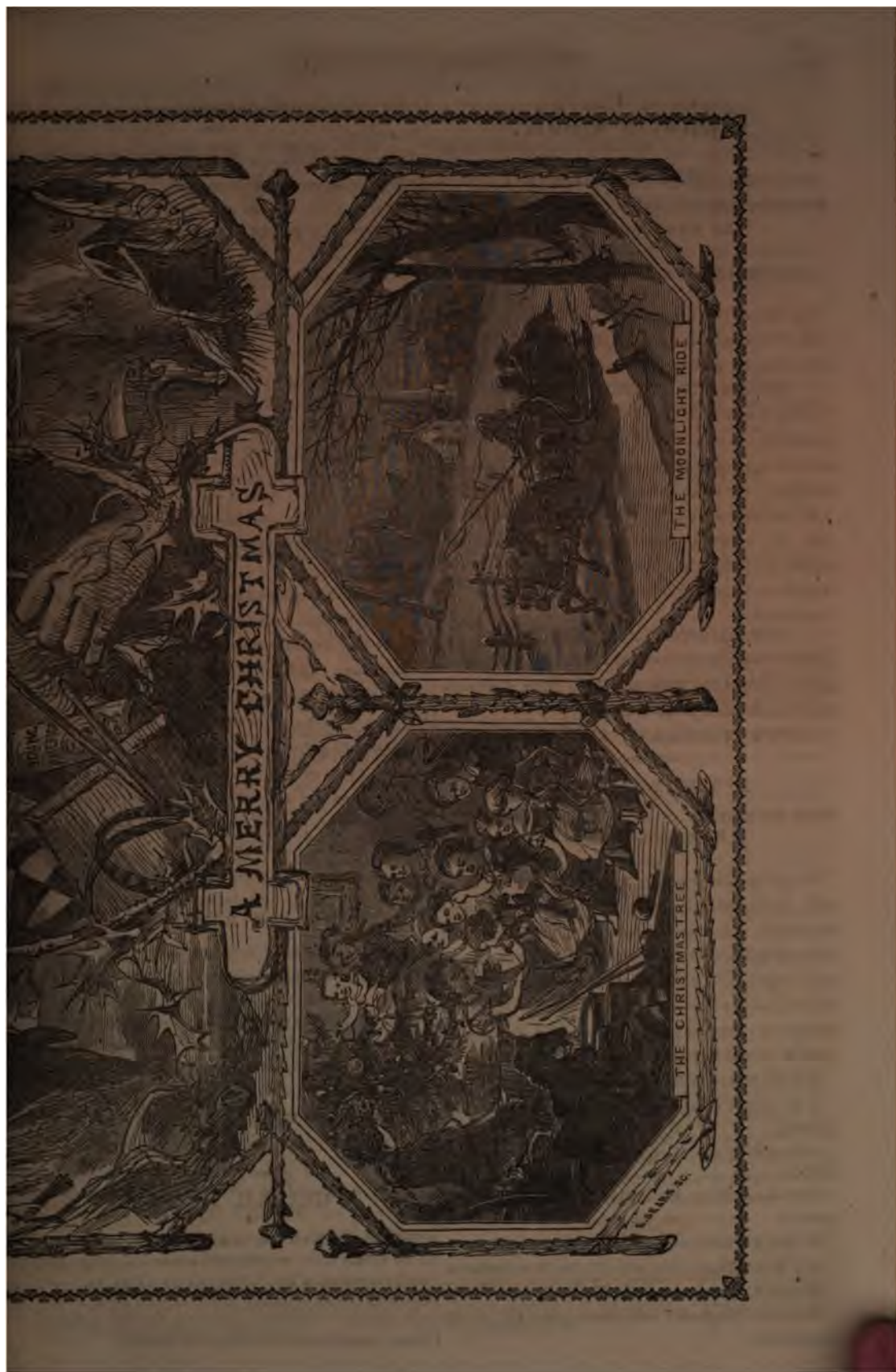
**TEA CAKE.**—Three cups of sugar, three eggs, one cup of butter, one of milk, a spoonful of dissolved pearlsh, and four cups of flour, well beaten up. If so stiff as not to stir easily, add a little more milk.

**GINGER BREAD.**—Seven cups of flour, three cups of molasses, one cup of butter, three eggs, one spoonful ginger, one teaspoonful pearlsh, one cup sour milk or buttermilk.









## Editor's Table.

### A PRESENT!

For every Old Subscriber that Renews during  
the Month of December!

#### A MOST LIBERAL OFFER! A CHANCE FOR ALL!

Our Beautifully Illustrated Annual of 88 pages, for 1868, will be sent as a special FREE GIFT, to every old subscriber now on our books, who renews for 1868,

**DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER,** whether singly or in Clubs. Let all our friends renew promptly, and relieve us of the arduous duties which devolve upon us in January. Agents will oblige us by marking every name, as an old or new subscriber, that none may be omitted. We desire to double our already large list before the first of January, and all that is needed is a little help from all our agents and friends. Let all work liberally this month in extending the circulation of

*THE PRACTICAL FARMER'S PAPER,* in their own neighborhoods and among their acquaintances. Now is the time to get up large Clubs and swell our list until it reaches

**FIFTY THOUSAND SUBSCRIBERS.**

### PREMIUMS.

Here we come!

**A Splendid Chance!!**

**Open to all!**

We are frequently written to, to know the lowest possible number that we can take to obtain certain specific Premiums. The Club price of *THE AMERICAN FARMER* is so low that we cannot afford as liberal premiums as some high-priced papers—and in all cases we have put them as low as possible, but in order to reduce the number of subscribers we will send *THE FARMER* in clubs at \$1 each, and offer the following at that rate:—

A Lamb Knitting Machine for 80 Subscribers.

A five-octave choral organ, price \$125, for 150 Subscribers.

A five-octave choral organ, price \$175, for 200 Subscribers.

A Grover & Baker \$55 sewing machine for 60 Subscribers.

Woodruff's Barometer, price \$18, for 35 Subscribers.

Woodruff's Barometer, price \$12, for 30 Subscribers.

Woodruff's Barometer, price \$10, for 24 Subscribers.

Webster's Illustrated Dictionary, price \$12, for 30 subscribers.

A 6 1-3 octave, (F to A) Piano, price \$400, for 450 Subscribers.

The above will be sent direct from the manufacturer, and only cost the agent the freight.

### YOU WANT IT!

THE information contained in every volume of *THE AMERICAN FARMER* is so valuable and indispensable, that every farmer and gardener wants it. The price is so low, that it comes within the reach of everybody. All that is necessary to form a **LARGE CLUB**, is to show it to your neighbors, and get them to join you in a Club, which at our Club price of only **75 Cents**, is so remarkably low that none will refuse when asked. For a Club of **TEN**, we send a *free copy* to the getter up of the Club.

### YOUR NEIGHBORS WANT IT!

HAVE you a neighbor that does not subscribe for an agricultural paper? If so, ask him to join with you and send for *THE AMERICAN FARMER*, "the practical farmer's own paper," and by so doing you will benefit others. Now is the time to canvass among your friends and help to swell our list until it reaches 50,000 names. Tell them its extreme low price, the value of its contents on every subject in relation to Agriculture and Horticulture, and that the reports of market produce are invaluable to every one who has anything to sell, and you will have no trouble in forming a Club, which will take one of our highest and most liberal prizes.

### IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!

**Three Hundred and Eighty-Four Pages** of valuable and interesting reading matter in convenient form for binding, at the remarkably low price of only **ONE DOLLAR**, (lower in Clubs,) is what we furnish in one year. It treats on all branches of Farming and Horticulture, and is the combined intelligence of practical farmers who contribute regularly for its pages. NOW, is the time to renew your subscription for the year 1868, and get your friends and neighbors to join you.

### GENERAL GRANT.

To any person sending us a Club of **10 Subscribers**, at **75 Cents** each, we will send a beautiful, large-sized steel engraving of the Commander-in-Chief, and hero of the late war, executed in the highest style of art, and making a handsome ornament for the parlor or library, instead of a free copy, if so desired.

## THE AMERICAN FARMER, AND FARMERS RECORD AND ACCOUNT BOOK.

THE importance of keeping correct accounts, and having a systematic book in which to keep them, is obvious to every person who desires to know the result of certain crops, household expenses, &c., and we take pleasure in calling attention to the one advertised in this number, and have made arrangements by which we can furnish them to our readers with *THE FARMER* for \$4. Every farmer should commence the year with this valuable work. Now is the time to get them.

## THE AMERICAN FARMER AND ANNUAL.

IN Clubs, *THE AMERICAN FARMER*, and *ANNUAL* for 1868, will be sent for 90 Cents the two, to all *NEW SUBSCRIBERS*. This valuable little work of 88 pages, illustrated with engravings, is an interesting treatise on Bulbs, Flowers, and House Plants, and should be in the hands of every lover of flowers.

### BOUND VOLUMES.

WE have a large number of volumes of *THE AMERICAN FARMER* bound in good substantial binding, now ready for delivery, embracing the issues for 1866 and 1867. They will be sent to any address, by mail, pre-paid, for \$1.25 each; or to any person sending us twelve names, at our lowest club price of 75 cents each, we will send either volume to the agent getting up the Club; or, for twenty subscribers at the same rate, we will send both the above volumes bound, postage paid.

### DING, DONG, BELL!

WE have had frequent applications from our agents and friends, asking us to offer Bells as a Premium. We have the pleasure of announcing that arrangements have been completed by which we can furnish them to all interested, with very little labor on their part, in soliciting their friends and neighbors to form a Club for *THE AMERICAN FARMER* for 1868.

To every person sending us 100 Subscribers, at \$1 each; or, 120, at 75 Cents—we will send a Bell weighing 250 lbs., with mounting complete, costing in all \$60.

To every person sending 300 Subscribers at \$1 each, a bell weighing 300 lbs., with mounting complete, costing \$125.

### FOR FARM USE.

To every person sending 50 Subscribers, at \$1; or 75, at 75 Cents each, a bell weighing 300 lbs., and costing \$25.

To every person sending 30 Subscribers, at \$1 each; or, 40, at 75 Cents each, a bell weighing 100 lbs., costing \$13.

Commence early in making up lists, and send on the names as fast as obtained, and the bells will be sent as soon as the whole number are received.

### POSTAGE

ON *THE AMERICAN FARMER*, when paid quarterly in advance, is only Three Cents per quarter. We prepay the American postage on all papers sent to Canada.

### THE WEATHER, CROPS, &c.

Notes on the Weather from Oct.. 15, to Nov. 16, 1867.

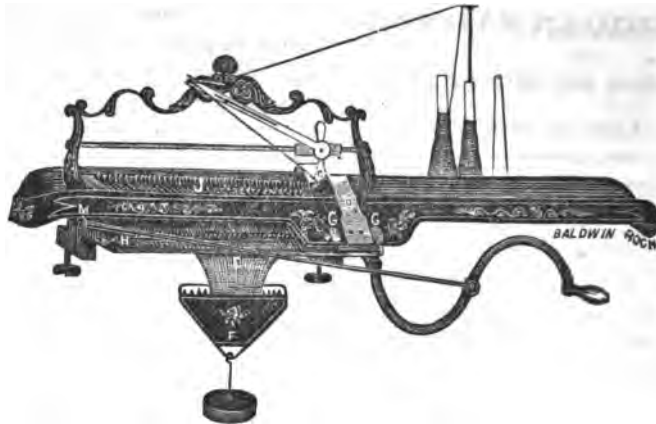
The first half of October, 1867, gave its mean temperature at 49.2°; its average, 51.3°; so that the second half, 53.7°, was warmer than the first half, and its average, 48.2°, was less than the mean of the month, 51.0°. The last half of October, 1860, 53.1°, also warmer than the first half, 48.2°, as was also that of this October, 1867, being 53.7°, and above its first half, 49.2°. Much of the weather has been fair, windy and dusty some, but rather dry.

Rain only 1.77 inch in the first half, and only 0.15 inch in the second. Atmosphere seems quite agitated still, as heavy storms of rain, tornadoes, hail storms, and the like, seem to prove. The water fallen thus far this year, to the end of October, is 27.05 inches, about one-tenth more than the average.

NOVEMBER has so far given us the fair autumnal weather so rare here at this season, only colder. The rain has been little, 0.16 inch, in this first half. So that the rain still leaves us in near a drouth, and that wide over the country westward. A little snow fell on the 2d and 3d, 3 inches perhaps, and again on the 5th; the Canal is said to have frozen in two or three cold points. The barometer has been quite variable, and yet indicates wind and clouds more than rain.

The meteoric shower of November 14, expected by some on the 13th, and very striking and wonderful, was the greatest between 3 and 5 o'clock, A. M., in many places in our country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Some places were covered with fog or clouds, if the meteors were falling. Said to be none in England; but the United States were greatly favored. Thousands more know what was meant by the language in 1833, (the time of the first visible shower,) "*it snows stars*."

THE index, &c., in this number occupies considerable space, and has crowded out a large number of valuable and interesting articles. We can promise increased excellence in the January number, which will be published early.



LAMB FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE.

**Lamb Family Knitting Machine.**

THE above engraving is a good representation of this valuable machine, which we offer in our Premium List to send to any person who will forward a list of ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY Subscribers, at 75 Cents each. We have already sent off several, and hope that many of our friends will avail themselves of this splendid prize offer. Any person can operate them, even a child ten years old; and every kind of knitting work can be done by this labor-saving invention. It is beautifully made, will last for years, and with ordinary usage will not get out of order. A little effort will get up a Club large enough to take one. Who speaks first?

THE American Dairyman's Association will meet at Utica, January 8, 9. Professor Brewer, of Yale College, will deliver the annual address. Subject: "Cattle Breeding in its Relations to Dairy Farming."

THE first exhibition of the American Poultry Society will be held in Masonic Hall, New York, Dec. 3-6. Valuable prizes are offered for all classes of poultry.

**Notes from Canada.**

We have had the longest season of drouth that has occurred for many years. Very little rain has fallen since the middle of August, and the creeks and wells are in most instances completely dried up, and the rivers are so low, that there is not water enough to run many of the mills. The fall pasturage is so bare that cattle have to be fed hay in the fields. Snow now covers the ground.

The breaking down of two of our oldest banks has given such a shock to commerce, and created such a feeling of distrust among the farmers, that the grain markets are almost deserted, and little produce is coming forward, and in wheat there is a noticeable decline in prices, notwithstanding the demand in Europe. The Bank of Montreal is doing all it can, with the influence of the government at its back, to break the other banking institutions of the country, and with

its usual dog-in-the-manger policy, refuses to discount with a large capital locked up in its coffers, and it is not to be wondered at, if, under the circumstances, the other banks feel that they run an extra risk, as all their notes are bought up by Mr. King, the manager of the Bank of Montreal, and at once presented, with a demand for specie. American silver, which had been at a discount, is now freely taken at par, and large purchases are being made of stock, by drovers and speculators from your side, at prices much below those given last year. Good milch cows can be had at from \$20 to \$35 each; sheep are being bought up at \$1.75 to \$4 each; live hogs from 3 to 3 1-2 cts. per pound; and beeves from 2 3-4 to 5 1-2 cts. per pound, live weight.

Hops are largely grown near London, and the crop this year has been good, prices ranging low, say 20c to 26c per pound. There is a seven-acre field of hops near the city, which last year gave 1,400 lbs. per acre, and this year only yielded 400 lbs. off the whole piece. Large chemical works for the manufacture of sulphuric acid were erected this spring on an adjoining lot to the southeast, and soon after they commenced operations, the hops which were then (June 26th) looking finely, and promising a large yield, suddenly turned black, as if struck by some unseen blight. It was remarked that the wind blew from the works to the hop field the day before, and it is supposed the fumes generated in the process of manufacturing vitriol, destroyed the hops. A suit was commenced against the chemical company for damages, for causing the destruction and loss of the hops, but the evidence of over forty witnesses on both sides proved so contradictory, that the jury gave the plaintiff only 50 cents damages.

MAC.

**From Maine.**

October gave us beautiful weather for the finishing up of late fall work. There were no heavy storms or cold days during the month. All kinds of farm produce are high—much higher than I expected for so early in the season. Potatoes, 85a90c; oats, 90 cts., apples, \$1.25a\$1.50; butter, 25a30c; beef, 9a\$12 per hundred; hay, \$15 for pressed, \$18 loose; eggs, 25a26c round hog, 10 cts.; mutton, 7a8c; store sheep, \$2.50a

\$3. Stock is not in great demand, and prices depend upon the value of the animal for beef. Spring calves (steers) are in good demand at high prices. Now that the crops are all in, we can judge of their comparative productiveness. Corn, good; potatoes, half a crop; hay above the average; grain, fair; apples, less than an average.—G. E. B., Belfast, Me.

THE beautiful Christmas scene on the center pages of this number, will call to mind many pleasant thoughts appropriate to the season. We are indebted to the enterprising publisher of Demorest's Monthly Magazine for the plate—the best ladies magazine in the country, and one well known to most of our readers.

### THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER, Nov. 27, 1867.

FLOUR—White wheat, 16.50. Red, \$14.00.

GRAIN—White wheat, 287@300c. Red, 250c. Corn, 125c. Barley, \$1.25@1.30. Rye, 135c. Oats, 75c.

BEANS—250@300.

HOPS—45c@65c.

WOOL—Nothing doing.

HAY—\$14@30.

PROVISIONS—Lard, 14@14½c. Butter, 82@83c. Eggs, 80c. Cheese, 12@18c. Potatoes, 75@90c. Dried apples, 8@9c. Chickens, 13@15c. Turkeys, 16@18c. Pork, 8@9c.

### OFFICE OF AMERICAN FARMER.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Nov 24, 1867.

Since our last report the wheat market has been dull and nominally lower. There is little doing. Millers who want wheat will pay about \$2.50 for it in this city.

Barley has advanced in the eastern and also in the western cities, but is dull here. Malsters are temporarily supplied, and the stringency in the money market checks speculation. Bright six-rowed sells for \$1.35; two-rowed \$1.15@1.20. The prospects are favorable for an advance.

Beans are in demand at \$2.50 to \$3 for first quality.

The pork market is very unsatisfactory to farmers. Corn is scarce and high, and many farmers have to carry water from the canal or creeks for their fattening hogs. No wonder they are anxious to sell. During the frosty weather a week ago, large numbers of dressed hogs were brought into market. Most of them were only half fat, and hardly fit for packing. Such pigs were slow of sale at from 7c to 8c. Those of better quality brought 8½@9c., and one prime lot of 400 lb hogs was quickly sold at 9¼c. They were much better worth 10c than some were worth 7c. The probabilities are that really fat hogs will bring fair prices before January, but few farmers have the nerve to feed corn at \$1.25 per bushel.

Beef cattle advanced half a cent for the last week in Albany, and it is thought the "bottom has been touched," though farmers in nearly all parts of the country are short of feed and anxious to sell. This is particularly true of this section, and in many parts of the West. Farmers who have the feed will do well in keeping good thrifty steers, or good three-year old wether sheep the coming winter. All the indications point to high prices for beef and well fattened mutton, the last of the winter or early spring.

Butter is scarce and in demand, at 85c@40c. This is a good price, and it is best to sell anything when a good remunerative price can be obtained.

As a matter of interest we give the following prices of farm produce in London, from the last *Mark Lane Express*:

These prices are in gold, and we must add about 40 per cent to the figures to bring them to our currency. It will be seen that butter and prime beef are higher here than in England. Mutton is much cheaper, as it generally is.

English white wheat .....	\$2.19@2.40 per bu.
" red wheat .....	2.10@2.19 "
Barley for malting .....	1.05@1.38 "
" for grinding .....	1.05@1.08 "
Rye .....	1.29@1.41 "
Oats .....	78@1.08 "
(The latter for potato oats.)	
Peas .....	1.29@1.56 "
Indian corn .....	1.29@1.38 "
Red Clover Seed .....	6.25@7.25 "
Butter .....	20 28 15 "
Large hogs, (dressed) .....	12 "
Porkers .....	15 "
Prime beef, 15c; second quality, 13c; inferior, 11c.	
American pork in Dublin, \$24 ½ bbl.	

### New York Markets.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER, BY G. EDWARDS TODD, OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.

**BEEVES**—The number of beef cattle received for the weekly supply during the past week, is 5,678 head. This number is a short supply for the weekly demand. But to-day 16½c. seems to be the top of the market. Very few cattle are sold for more than 15c. ½ lb., net weight, although occasionally a few extra fattened bullocks were sold for 16½@17c. ½ lb. Farmers who have cattle will do better in the end to fatten them well before sending them to this or any other market.

**MILCH COWS**—A few good cows have been sold as high as \$110@120 each.

**CALVES**—Fat calves are in fair demand at firm prices and quick sales. The best lots bring 12c@12½c. ½ lb., live gross weight. Inferior calves are sold for 7c@8c. ½ lb. Large numbers are now being "hog dressed," and sent to market with the skin on. This is far the best way to send such animals to market, as they sell more advantageously than when alive. A few milk-fattened and meal-finished calves were sold the past week—a few for \$27.20 each, and a number of others for \$51.40 ½ head. They were a superior lot, having been fattened without any hay or grass of any amount. The number of calves for the month is 1,170.

**SHEEP**—Receipts are heavy, numbering 82,700 for the week. Trade uniformly slow, and prices vary little, if any, from the quotations of last month. Sheep are quoted per pound, live weight, for prime sheep, 5½@5¾c.; inferior to medium, 4@4¼c. Prime lambs, 6½@7c.; common, 5½@6¾c. Large numbers of sheep are sold by the head, as they are too thin and poor to be slaughtered. The immense number of inferior sheep cause a slow and dull market. But, if a drover has good sheep, he can sell them readily for a paying price.

**SWINE**—Are heavy, numbering 81,848 head for the past week. Trade for good hogs is active. Prime hogs 7½@7¾c.; fair to good hogs, 6¾@7½c.; common, light, and rough, 6½@6¾c. All sold at these figures.

**BUTTER**—The prices for butter are tolerably firm for a fair article. The following figures express about the prices paid for different lots of butter:

Chemung, Sussex, and Chenango Counties Dairies, firkins, ½ lb., 43c.a45c.; Chautauqua, Cayuga, and Delaware counties dairies, do. do., 40c.a43c.; Broome, Cortland, Steuben, and other counties do. do., 39c.a42c.; Lewis, and Jefferson dairies, Welsh tubs, 39c.a42c.; ordinary State do. firkins, 38c.a39c.; ordinary State do. Welsh tubs, 38c.a39c.; half-firkin tubs State dairies, fine to extra, 42a45c.; half-firkin tubs State dairies, fair to good, 38a40c.; Northern Pennsylvania dairies, firkins and tubs, 38a39c.

**CHEESE**—A more active demand prevails for cheese for the local trade. Our quotations are as follows:

Factory dairies, fancy and Cheddar shapes, ½ lb., 16a16½c.; factory dairies, fine quality, do., 15½a16c.; factory dairies, common to fair quality, do., 14a15c.; farm dairies, fancy and extra quality, do., 15½a16½c.; farm dairies, fair to good, do., 14a15c.; farm dairies, common, do. 12a13c.; Orange county, skimmed cheese, do., Sallie.

**APPLES AND GRAPES**—The prices for excellent apples is firm. Grapes are slow of sale. Cranberries are in large supply, and lower.

Apples, State, ½ bbl., \$3.75a\$4.25; Western, do., \$3.75a\$4.25; apples, ordinary, do., \$2.75a\$3; grapes, Isabella, ½ lb., 5c.a9c.

common, 8c. a 5c.; Catawba, 12c. a 14c.; cranberries,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl., \$9.50 \$10.50.

**POULTRY**—Is abundant and at present very cheap:

Turkeys, 14c. @ 18c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  D.; fowls,  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., 12c. @ 15c.; spring chickens,  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., 14c. @ 16c.; geese,  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., 12c. @ 14c.; ducks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., 15c. @ 20c.

**EGGS**—The demand for eggs is not as active as usual, and prices are a shade easier:

N. J., extra brands, per dozen, 84c. @ 85c.; State and Pa., do., 82c. a 84c.; ordinary Western, do., 29c. a 31c.; Western, by express, do., 82a 88; Canada, do., 80c. @ 82c.; lined, do., 28c. @ 30c.

**POTATOES**—Are in fair demand, and tolerably quick sales, at the following rates:

Buckeyes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl., \$2.25 @ \$2.37; peachblows, do., \$2.00 @ \$2.25; N. J. Albert, do., \$2.00 @ \$2.25; Jackson whites, do., \$2.75 @ \$3.00; Mercers, do., \$2.00 @ \$2.75; Delaware sweet, do., \$3.50 @ \$5; Virginia sweet, do., \$3.00 @ \$3.25.

**WOOL**—Has been in moderate request, but at prices generally below the views of holders, who are not willing to make any important concessions. Hence, transactions have been on a restricted scale.

New York, Michigan and Vermont: extra and above,  $\frac{1}{2}$  D., 45c. @ 47c.;  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  blood, do., 80c. a 84c.; common and  $\frac{1}{4}$  do., 87c. a 89c.; Ohio, Pa., and Va., choice Saxony fleeces, do., 58c. a 62c.; extra to XX, do., 50c. a 58c.;  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  blood do., 48c. a 46c.; common and  $\frac{1}{4}$  do., 39c. a 41c. Ill., Wis., Iowa and Ind., extra and above, do., 42c. a 44c.;  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  blood fleeces, do., 38c. a 40c.; common and  $\frac{1}{4}$  fleeces, do., 36c. a 37c.

**GRAIN**—Wheat has been quite heavy to-day, and quoted materially lower, with more sellers than buyers at the reduced figures, the market closing very irregularly. Sales were reported yesterday of 84,000 bushels at from \$1.33 @ \$1.38 (in store and afloat) for mixed Western, closing tamely at \$1.36 for prime afloat; \$1.26 @ \$1.32 for new mixed Western,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

Rye has been quoted higher on a light supply and moderate demand. Sales have been made of 7,000 bushels Western, at \$1.69 @ \$1.70  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

Barley has been firm and moderately inquired for. Yesterday sales were made of 42,500 bushels at \$1.63 @ 1.65 for Canada West, and \$1.50 @ \$1.55 for State,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel. Barley malt has been dull at \$1.55 @ \$1.65  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

Oats have been in less request, and rather heavy. Sales, 51,000 bushels Western, in store and afloat, closing at 78 $\frac{1}{2}$  a 79 $\frac{1}{2}$  c  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

8,000 bushels Canada peas, in bond, sold at \$1.40  $\frac{1}{2}$  bush.

**FLOUR AND MEAL**—Yesterday sales were reported of 7,300 bbls., including poor to choice superfine State and Western, at \$8.10 @ \$8.90; very poor to good extra State at \$9.20 @ \$9.70; good to choice extra State at \$9.70 @ \$10; poor to good shipping brands of round-hoop extra Ohio, at \$9.40 @ \$10.20  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl.

State and Western flour has been extremely heavy to-day, and prices have again declined 10a 25c  $\frac{1}{2}$  bbl. Most of the holders complain that there is no market at all; that the trade had dwindled to a mere peddling business, and that prices were more or less nominal. At the close sellers generally seemed "in the blues." The following figures express about the prices of the different kinds of flour and meal: we quote:

Sup. State and Western, \$8.10 @ \$8.90; extra State, \$9.20 @ \$10; extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c., \$9.00 @ \$12.50; extra Ohio, round-hoop, shipping brands, \$9.40 @ \$10.20; extra Ohio, trade and family brands, \$10.25 @ \$12.75; extra Genesee, \$10.10 @ \$12.75; common to choice extra Missouri, \$10.75 @ \$15.25.

### Special Notices.

**IMPROVED ELLIPTIC**—It is with pleasure that we call the attention of readers to this justly popular sewing machine. It has no superior for family sewing, and we would advise our readers to call at the salesroom, 59 Buffalo street, and examine these wonders of the mechanical art. For a Christmas or New Year's present they would be most acceptable.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

**RATES OF ADVERTISING.**—Advertisements of interest to farmers, will be inserted in **THE AMERICAN FARMER** for 25 cents a line, or \$2.50 per square of 10 lines, each insertion, payable in advance. To secure insertion, they should be sent in by the 18th of the previous month. **THE FARMER** has subscribers in every State, and nearly every Territory. There is no better or cheaper medium for advertising everything of general interest to rural residents in all parts of the United States and Canada. *Special notices, 50 cents per line.*

## THE IMPROVED SLOAT ELLIPTIC LOCK-STITCH SEWING MACHINES.

**THE MOST POPULAR INSTRUMENT OF THE AGE** for Family Sewing. Please examine at the Salesroom, 59 Buffalo Street. Agents wanted. Address,  
dec **D. E. RICE, Rochester, N. Y.**

### AGENTS WANTED.

**TO SELL ENGRAVINGS AND PRINTS.** Also Stationery Goods and Silver Watches. \$30 invested will realize \$100. Address,  
dec-4t **HASKINS & CO.,**  
36 Beekman Street, New York.

## WHITE MEN MUST RULE AMERICA!

**CLUBS FOR 1868!—CLUBS FOR 1868!**

**THE BEST NEW YORK WEEKLY PUBLISHED.**

## NEW YORK DAY BOOK FOR 1868.

**THE NEW YORK DAY BOOK** is a straightforward, Radical Democratic paper, with a larger circulation than any other Democratic journal ever published on this Continent, and it enters on the threshold of 1868 more prosperous and more hopeful of the great cause it upholds than ever before. Standing on the foundation, of the Declaration of Independence, that "all (white) men are created equal," and therefore entitled to equal rights, it is opposed to all forms and degrees of special legislation that conflict with this grand central Truth of Democracy.

**THE DAY BOOK**, therefore, demands the restoration of the "Union as it was"—a Union of co-equal States upon the white basis, as the only hope, and the only means possible under heaven for saving the grand ideas of 1776, and the fundamental principles of American Liberty, and if the real friends of freedom and the earnest believers in that sacred and glorious cause in which the men of the Revolution offered up their lives, will now labor to expose the ignorance, delusion, and treason of the mongrel party, it will succeed, and the white Republic of Washington be restored again in all its original beneficence and grandeur.

**THE WEEKLY DAY BOOK** is the most COMPLETE WEEKLY PAPER PUBLISHED. Its News Summary, Family Reading, Agricultural Articles, Reports of Cattle, Grain, and Cotton Markets, &c., &c., are not surpassed by any paper.

### Terms—Cash in Advance.

One copy one year.....	\$ 2.00
Three copies one year.....	5.50
Five copies one year, and one to the getter up of the Club	10.00
Ten copies one year, and one to the getter up of the Club	17.50
Additional copies.....	1.75
Twenty copies one year, and one to the getter up of the Club.....	30.00

Specimen copies sent free. Address,

**VAN EVRIE, HORTON & CO.,**  
No. 162 Nassau Street, New York.

dec



## GEORGE P. ROWELL & CO'S

### SELECT LISTS OF ONE HUNDRED NEWSPAPERS. THEIR ORIGIN.

The ordinary business of an Advertising Agent consists in receiving orders for newspapers at regular prices; and that is, without doubt, the most pleasant way of conducting an Agency; but the public are disposed to patronize those parties who will give most for the money, and consequently it becomes evident that a large business can only be secured by being able to offer the greatest facilities. The desire to make our own a leading house in the business we had undertaken, led us several years since to commence the system of special contracts, which has been enlarged upon from time to time, until the early part of 1867, when we presented to the public our FOUR LISTS OF ONE HUNDRED NEWSPAPERS EACH, now so well known and appreciated by advertisers generally.

#### WHAT THEY ARE.

These papers are selected from the secular Press—the Political, Local, Family, and Business newspapers of the country—our rule being to take but ONE in each town or city, and that the one which, all things considered, is likely to be of most service to an advertiser in proportion to the price paid. In places where a daily is issued, we give it the preference, as best calculated to reach the business community; and excepting the few Religious, Agricultural, and purely Literary publications, the newspapers upon these lists will be found to be the very best selection as to Circulation, Character, and Influence.

#### REASONS FOR A LIST OF 100.

When the system was first inaugurated it was considered desirable to apply it to a list sufficiently large to give one paper to every considerable place in the States included on the list, with a daily in each city. On making up this list it was found to contain nearly one hundred papers, and, in order to make it more perfect, one hundred was adopted as the number. By calculating the various prices to be paid to each paper, a fixed price per inch and per line was adopted for the whole. When the demands of our customers required the formation of other lists, we decided they should contain the same number of papers, the same relative proportion of dailies and weeklies, and be governed by the same rules. Four lists have now been formed on the same plan, and thus they have become known as the "lists of one hundred newspapers."

#### REASONS WHY LISTS OF ONE HUNDRED SHOULD BE USED IN PREFERENCE TO A SMALLER ONE.

Many advertisers, in making a selection of newspapers to cover the territory included in one of our lists, would probably select no more than fifty papers where we have a hundred; but of the fifty selected, if the advertiser be well posted, and take but one to a place, it will be found by comparison with our list that at least 40 of them are included, and when we undertake to insert this advertisement for a month in our one hundred for as little money as he would have to pay to obtain the forty selected, we think no objection can be made to the larger list.

#### HOW THE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES WE CLAIM ARE OBTAINED.

This is simply by applying the old system of yearly contracts on a large scale. An ordinary weekly paper of average circulation is in the habit of charging say \$2.50 for 10 lines one month, but for \$100 will sell a column of 100 lines for a whole year, with the privilege of changing the matter monthly, thus making the cost of 10 lines on the column contract less than one-fifth the regular charge. On higher priced papers the proportion remains nearly the same. The above explains the whole mystery. We have yearly contracts with 400 papers for a fixed amount of space, with the privilege of monthly changes. We take the risk of filling the space, we do fill it, and it is consequently plain that we can execute orders for advertising at one-half the usual charges, and while making nearly full commissions, still afford to pay the publisher an additional price (according to his yearly rates) to secure the right to let out to others the space we hire, and to procure for our orders the most prominent place in the paper. The aggregate amount of the special contracts we now have is nearly one hundred thousand dollars per annum.

#### WHY IT IS BETTER FOR AN ADVERTISER TO USE THE LISTS WE HAVE SELECTED THAN TO MAKE A SELECTION OF HIS OWN.

An advertisement cannot be taken for a paper on our plan without a previous contract between the publisher and ourselves; it is evident that the lists must be made up from our own ideas of the wants of the public. This is not an objection, but an advantage. No individual advertiser can be so well informed as to the relative value of newspapers, nor can be so frequently brought in contact with the publishers, nor receive such complete files of all the newspapers published, nor have facilities to keep them in that orderly position for reference so necessary for those who propose to become authority, to decide which is the best paper in every place in a country so large as ours. We have complete lists open to the public for examination, and are

in daily receipt at our office of more than 500 different papers daily—more than 3,000 per week. We offer the public every facility to examine and decide whether or not our selections are judicious. It is as much for our interest as for that of our customers that their investments shall be profitable, in order that they may be induced to patronize us further. Great care is used in making our selections to have the papers judiciously distributed over the States so as to reach all parties alike, and particularly to have one paper in the shire town of every county.

#### THE POSITION OCCUPIED BY OUR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Next to having a good paper comes the importance of having a good position in it. Our contracts are made to secure for our customers a preference in this respect, the advertisement being guaranteed a position on the inside, or next to the column of reading matter under the heading of "New Advertisements," which secures the attention, and is, we think, more desirable than the special notice column. As we always send printed copy set up with care, we get a better style and general appearance than other advertisements in the same paper.

#### HOW IT IS DONE.

As a rigid adherence to a system is the only way so complicated a matter can be managed, advertisements are sent to each list every fourth Monday, and at no other time. All necessary directions and information are printed instead of written, and thus in a few hours an amount of business is transacted which in the ordinary way would require days. The same advertisements go to every paper, and one postage stamp carries the whole. The contract already existing fixes the price to be charged, so no delay from correspondence occurs. The advertisements appear in the next issue of each paper, which is at once mailed to us, when it is examined, and after being checked in a book kept for that purpose, is carefully filed, that the advertiser may examine it at his leisure. As there are eighty-five weekly and fifteen daily papers on each list, a file of more than seven hundred different papers is prepared for inspection at any time within three months from date of order. If omissions or errors occur, the publishers are immediately informed; but, knowing by experience that we mean to have the work done right, very few errors occur. We send an order to one list every Monday, which, with the four we now have, just completes the circle, and gives to each week a particular list. To advertisers residing outside New York City, and consequently unable to examine our files, we send one copy to each paper (containing advertisements marked) by express.

#### MONEY SAVED BY THE SYSTEM.

One item is the saving of postage stamps. We send out, say thirty different advertisements to the four hundred papers on the four lists, they all go at once with a printed letter giving necessary instructions. The cost to us is 400 postage stamps, 400 envelopes, and 400 copies of the advertisements all printed on a slip of paper. Suppose each person undertook to do the business direct, and had facilities to obtain the same prices from the papers, they would each have to write or print 400 letters, 400 copies of the advertisement, direct 400 envelopes, and each pay a postage bill of \$12, making an extra expense of \$560 for postage alone, or \$348 more than it costs us, and this sum goes neither to the advertiser nor to the publisher, but is simply wasted. No account is here taken of the extra paper, printing and envelopes, nor the time occupied in doing the work. We mention but one item; others can be named hardly less in importance. These we save and depend upon for our profit.

#### THE CHEAPEST ONLY BECAUSE THE BEST.

Advertising in these lists must not be confronted with what is known as cheap advertising, for it is not cheap in the sense the term is usually applied. With these lists are obtained the best papers and the best position in those papers; the papers are well paid for the work—according to their yearly rates—and we average a profit nearly approaching full commissions. The only cheap thing about it is this—with capital and enterprise sufficient, we buy up at wholesale nearly one hundred thousand dollars worth of space in the best local newspapers of the country; we can, of course, retail that space, still making a profit, at much lower rates than other parties without our facilities. So far as the price being low as applied to the mere number of papers, it is not, although seeming so. We can complete the same arrangement and be able to give one thousand papers for the same amount we now charge for four hundred, and at the same time increase our rates of profits. The price is not particularly cheap for the number of the papers, but when we consider both quantity and quality, it is found to be very low indeed.

#### A MAN COMPETENT TO JUDGE EXPLAINS THE ADVAN- TAGES WE HAVE, AT THE NEW YORK STATE EDITORIAL CONVENTION.

No better proof can be offered that our system cannot be competed against by others, without adopting our plan (which originating with us, and being out of the beaten path, they are slow to do), than the following extract from a speech by a gentleman well known to advertisers as having had more experience, perhaps, than any other in the United States. It claims that the plan is bad for publishers (the justice of which claim, though false, we will not now discuss); but does not place it in the light of being anything but a good arrangement for the advertiser. We



quote from the Rochester, N. Y., Daily Union of Aug. 13, 1867, an extract from a report of a speech made by S. M. Pettingill, Esq., (of S. M. Pettingill & Co., Advertising Agents, New York and Boston), at the Editorial Convention of New York State Editors, holden at Penn Yan, N. Y., June 21, 1867. The words are plain and cannot be misunderstood:

"He showed the public that by this system of contracting they were giving lower rates than they gave their own home customers or others equally as prompt and good customers; that they were selling one portion of their paper to be used to compete with and underbid the other columns; that the owner of the space thus sold could come right in and beat the publisher's prices and take his business away from him; that if the publishers, fully understanding this, still wished to continue so irregular and unbusiness-like a system, he (Pettingill & Co.) should, of course, cease trying to get advertising for the papers at their regular rates and go into the other system of contracting—which he could stand if the printers could."

#### RECAPITULATION OF ADVANTAGES SECURED.

In conclusion, we recapitulate the following as the principal reasons for using our lists as advertising mediums:

- 1st. You secure a better class of papers than by making your own selections.
- 2d. The work is done much less than at the usual rates.
- 3d. A better position for advertisements is secured than could otherwise be obtained.
- 4th. The advertisements will be promptly inserted.
- 5th. They will appear in every issue of the papers.
- 6th. We watch the papers and see that the work is faithfully and correctly performed.

It will be evident to all that our system is not calculated for the smallest advertisers—\$50 being the smallest order we receive for either list of one hundred papers. But many advertisers will find that by making a systematic investment with us they will secure much greater results from their annual outlay than formerly.

Send for Price Card and Catalogue of the newspapers. Address,

GEORGE P. ROWELL & CO.,  
ADVERTISING AGENTS, No. 40 PARK ROW,  
NEW YORK.

P. S.—In addition to the advantages above set forth, our Agency has every facility for transacting the ordinary business of Advertising Agents in the ordinary way.

Our facilities are probably not equaled by any similar establishment in America.



SEND FOR IT!

T E C L B A E  
H E E R T D

CRAIG MICROSCOPE

Combines instruction with amusement. Best, simplest, cheapest, and most powerful microscope in the world. Magnifies ten thousand times. Made on an entirely new plan, hence its low price and high magnifying power. Requires no focal adjustment, therefore it can be readily used by every one, even by children. A beautiful gift to old or young. Adapted to the family circle as well as to scientific use. Shows the adulterations in food, thousands of animals in a single drop of water, eels in vinegar, globules in milk, blood, and other fluids, tubular structure of hair, claws on a fly's foot, also the celebrated "trichina spiralis" or pork worm, which is causing so many deaths among pork eaters, and in fact the objects which may be examined in this wonderful microscope, are without number. All are invited to call and see its great magnifying power. It took the first premium at the Ohio State Fair. Liberal discount to Agents, Booksellers, and Stationers, Fancy Goods Dealers, Toy Dealers, Jewelers, Opticians, Druggists, &c. Price, \$2.50. Packed in a neat box and sent prepaid to any address, on receipt of \$2.75. Money can be sent by mail at our risk. Address, GEORGE MEADE, Racine, Wis., Sole Proprietor.

#### FARMS IN THE WEST!

Parties wishing to Purchase or Sell, would do well to Call on, or address,

FRED. A. HATCH,  
Insurance and Real Estate Agt.,  
53 Arcade, Rochester, N. Y.

REFERENCES.—Hon. Freeman Clarke, Ed. American Farmer.  
dec-2t

THE LOVER'S CHARM, or Perfume of Love. Will win the undying love of either sex. An oriental perfume lasting ever. Only 50 cents. 3 for \$1. Sent sealed and postpaid by Addressing  
H. HALL, M. D., Hinsdale, N. H.

## THE AMERICAN FARMER ANNUAL.

AND

### LADIES' GARDEN COMPANION FOR 1868.

A TREATISE

ON THE CULTIVATION OF

### Hardy Bulbs, Tuberos Rooted Flowers, & House Plants.

BY WILLIAM WEBSTER.

Beautifully illustrated with numerous engravings. Vol. I, for 1868, now ready. Price 30 Cents.

Address,

JOHN TURNER,  
Publisher American Farmer,  
Rochester, N. Y.

## ANOTHER GRAND TRIUMPH!!

AT THE FAIR OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE just closed in New York, after a six weeks session, the

### FLORENCE SEWING MACHINE

has again carried off the honors, it having been awarded the

### FIRST PRIZE

over all competitors. This triumph following close upon the award of

### THE GOLD MEDAL,

(the highest prize,) at the Fair of

### THE MECHANICS ASSOCIATION,

(the great Fair of New England,) at Lowell, in October, as well as the

### FIRST PRIZE

for a Double Thread Machine at the late

### NEW YORK STATE FAIR AT BUFFALO,

establishes, beyond question, the superiority of THE FLORENCE, as a Family Sewing Machine.

### FLORENCE SEWING MACHINE COMPANY.

No. 505 Broadway, New York. dec

**FIFTY** Persons in every town wanting the Best Fireside Monthly, full of good reading: Instruction, Amusement, "Gayeties and Gravities," should send for the "Household Messenger" London Ridge, N. H. Specimen ..... 8  
A volume, postpaid, only ..... 50 CENTS.

### HOP SETS

FURNISHED TO ORDER. ADDRESS,

F. W. COLLINS, 1 Trowbridge St., Rochester, N. Y.  
dec

### 100,000 CONCORD CUTTINGS,

TWO OR FOUR-EYES—First quality—from matured wood—For Sale at a low price. Also

### Grafting Wax,

of superior quality for nurserymen, at as low price as they can make it. Manufactured by  
F. TROWBRIDGE.

New Haven, or Milford, Conn., or  
D. M. DEWEY,  
Arcade, Rochester, N. Y.

dec-1t

Agriculture underlies every other pursuit of life, and the subject of FERTILIZERS underlies Agriculture.

## LISTER BROS. FRESH BONE SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME!

ALWAYS RELIABLE.

It gives Quick Action—It promotes Luxuriant growth throughout the whole season—It creates NO WEEDS—It HASTENS maturity—It INCREASES the product, and it PERMANENTLY IMPROVES the Soil.

LISTER BROTHERS,  
159 Front St., New York .....SOLE MANUFACTURERS.  
nov-17



IMPROVED AND  
PRICE REDUCED TO 58 DOLLARS!  
KNITS A STOCKING COMPLETE!

Forming the heel and narrowing off the toe as it goes along.

IT SETS UP ITS OWN WORK,  
widens and narrows by varying the number of loops, the same as in hand knitting. No other Machine in the world can do any of these things. It knits a yard of plain work in

TEN MINUTES!

A pair of socks complete in half an hour, and an endless variety of fancy fabrics.

Every Machine Warranted to Work as Represented.

Circulars and sample stocking sent to any address on receipt of stamp.

JAS. D. ORNE, Gen'l Agt.,  
(for Western N. Y., Penn., and Western Vt.)  
176 State St., Rochester, N. Y.  
nov-17

PHILADELPHIA AND CLARKE RASPBERRIES.  
WILSON'S EARLY AND KITTATINNY BLACKBERRIES.  
130 ACRES IN SMALL FRUITS.

SEND STAMP FOR CATALOGUE

WILLIAM PARRY, Cinnaminson, N. J. oct-4t

"A Repository of Fashion, Pleasure, and Instruction."

## HARPER'S BAZAR.

THE PUBLISHERS will commence on November 1st, the issue of Harper's Bazar, a Weekly Illustrated Family Journal, devoted to Fashion and Home Literature. Their aim is twofold: to supply the existing need of a Weekly Fashion Newspaper, and to combine therewith a first-class literary journal, which will be indispensable to every household.

TERMS.—One year, \$4.00.

HARPER & BROTHERS,  
FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEW YORK.

## TO OWNERS OF HORSES! SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE SUBSCRIBER will forward by return mail, prescriptions for the sure cure of any disease of the horse, with all information desired, on receipt of 50 Cents. Owners of diseased or unserviceable horses should send at once. Address,

T. S. DENNISON,  
Box 298, Troy, N. Y.  
dec-8t

## WANTED!

TWO HUNDRED FARMERS!

TO ENGAGE in a light and honorable business for the winter months, in the vicinity where they reside, which will net them from \$50 to \$150 per month.

For particulars apply to or address,

B. S. SCRANTON & CO.,  
126 Asylum St., Hartford, Ct.  
dec

## PURE BRED HAMMOND RAMS.

FOR LETTING OR SALE, THE RAM  
M'CLELLAN,

Five years old. Bred by H. W. Hammond; sire Sweepstake, dam one of Mr. Hammond's Queens, and full brother to Kearsage, and although lacking somewhat the style and showiness of that celebrated Ram, he is fully his equal as a stock-getter, as his stock in this State and in Vermont abundantly proves.

Also SIX YEARLING RAMS, also bred by Mr. Hammond, and sired by his favorite Stock Rams Kearsage and Green Mountain, two Rams that stand the present season at \$100 per ewe.

Also TEN RAM LAMBS of my own breeding, that took the First Premium at the last Fair of the Genesee County Agricultural Society.

The above Rams will be sold at a very low price in comparison to what that class of sheep have heretofore been held at.

WALTER COLE,  
Batavia, N. Y.  
nov-2t

## TAKE YOUR CHOICE!

One Dollar commission will be allowed to ANY person sending the names of two new subscribers with the money for one year.

A Copy of the Observer for one year will be sent to ANY person sending us four new subscribers and fourteen dollars.

A \$55 Sewing Machine, either Wheeler and Wilson or Grover & Baker, will be sent to ANY person sending us the Names of Eighteen New Subscribers to the

## NEW YORK OBSERVER,

with the money (\$63) for one year in advance.

We have sent away as premiums more than

SEVEN HUNDRED

of these Machines, and they give universal satisfaction.

The new subscribers may be from one, or from various places.

Send by check, draft, or post office order.

Sample Copies and Circulars Sent Free.

TERMS—\$3.50 a Year, in advance.

SIDNEY E. MORSE, Jr., & CO.,  
37 Park Row, New York.  
nov-dec

## LANDSCAPE GARDENING.

**WILLIAM WEBSTER,**

**Landscape Gardener & Topographical Engineer,**

**IMPORTER AND DEALER IN**

**CHOICE SEEDS, PLANTS, AND BULBS,**

**Rochester, N. Y.,**

**RESPECTFULLY** informs his friends and patrons that his Catalogue containing Designs for Flower Gardens and Lists of the finest Plants and Bulbs in cultivation, will be sent free to all applicants.

Choice collections of the following Bulbs, Roses and Shrubs, can be furnished at the prices annexed:

	per doz.
Hyalanth, good varieties for out-door Planting.....	\$2 25
Hyalanth, fine named varieties for Parlor.....	4 00
Tulipa, from 50c. per dozen to.....	2 75
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Crocus, fine named varieties.....	50
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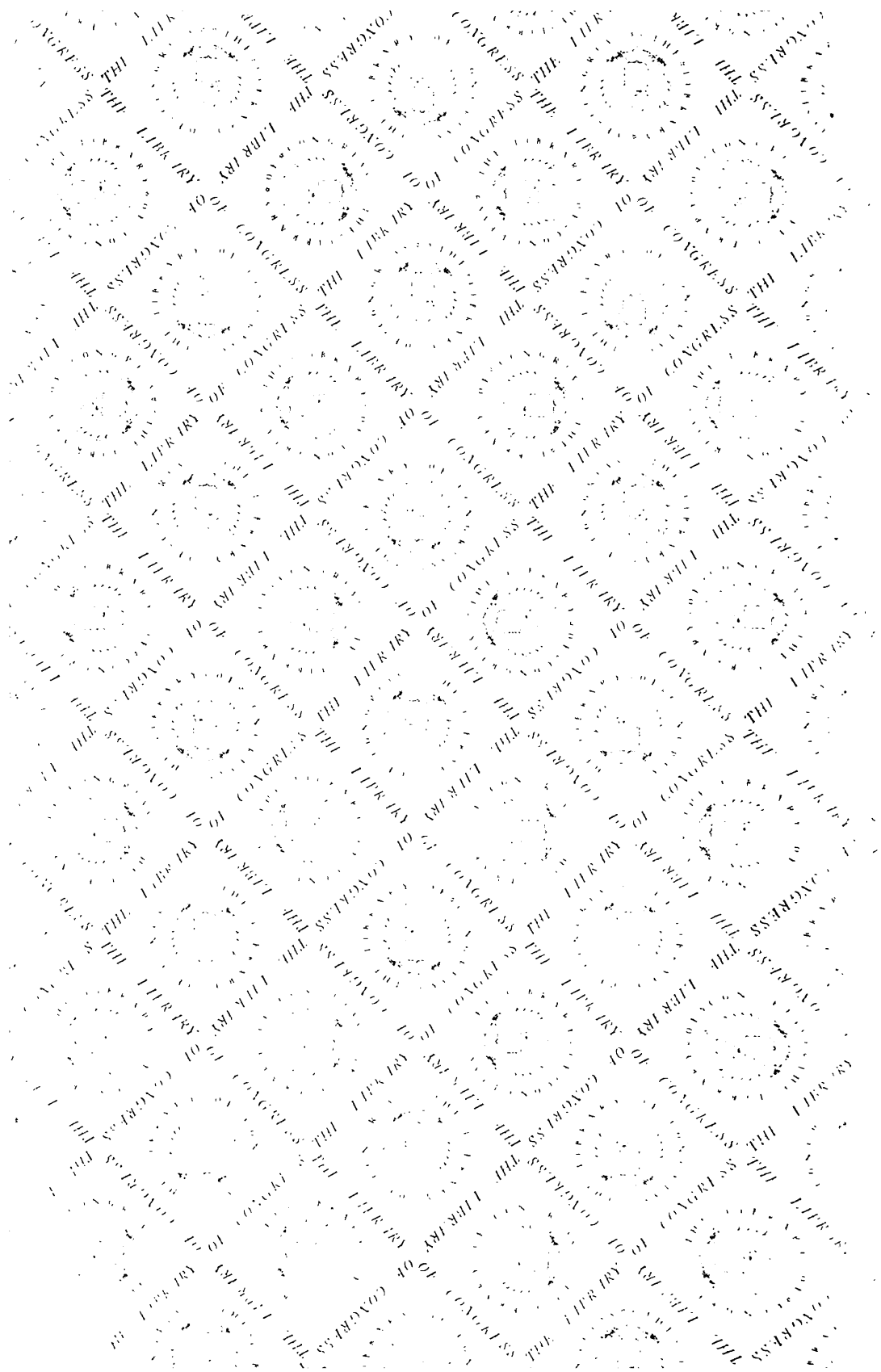
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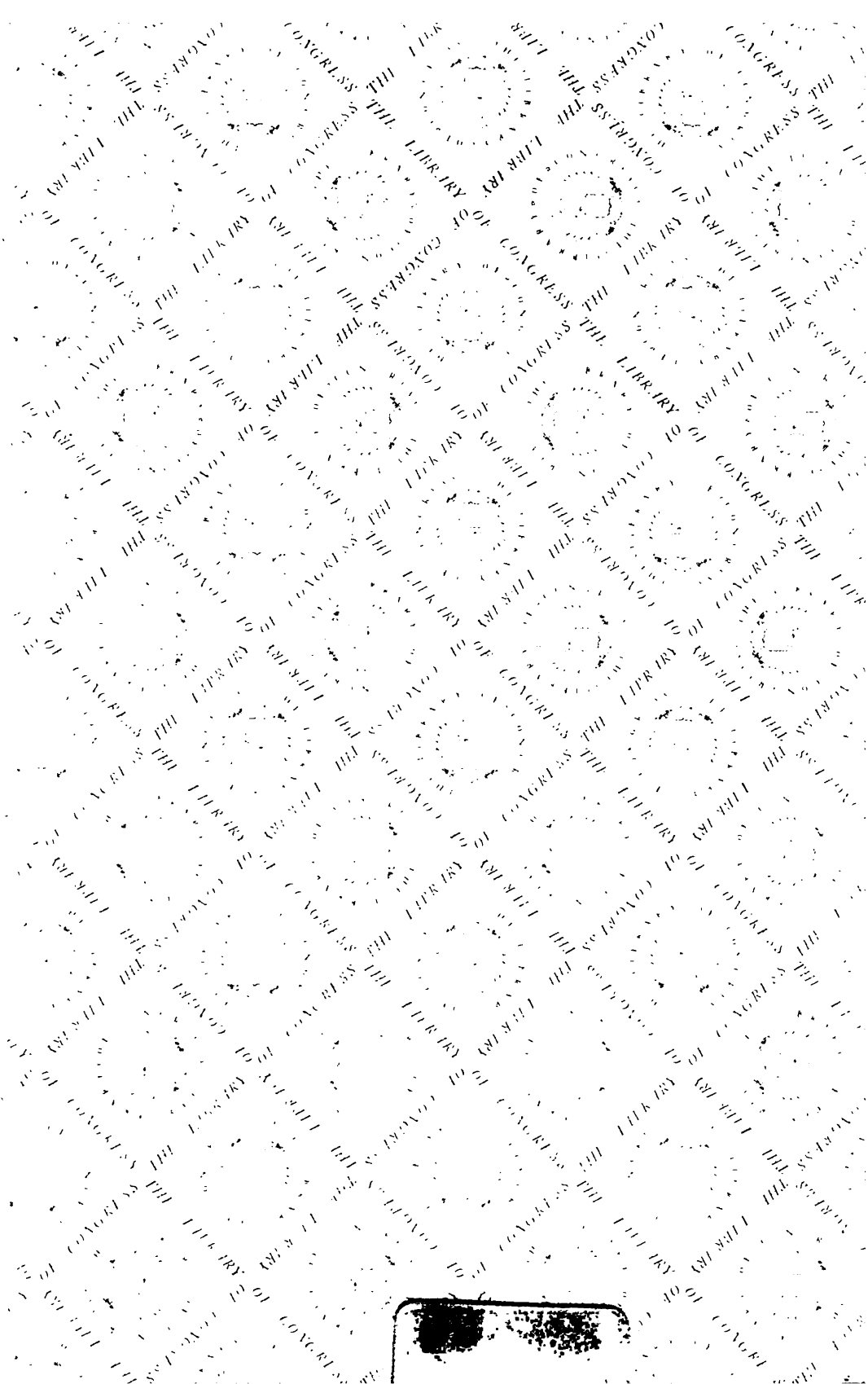












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